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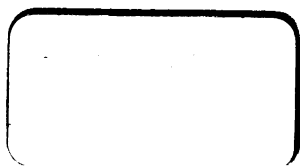
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THE
IMPORTANT TRIAL

OF
JOHN MITFORD, Esq.

ON THE PROSECUTION OF
LADY VISCOUNTESS PERCEVAL,
For Perjury,

AT
GUILDHALL, ON THURSDAY, FEB. 24, 1814,
BEFORE LORD ELLENBOROUGH,

*Forming a Clue to the Discussions which took place relative to the
Affairs of her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, in
the beginning of the Year 1813.*

ILLUSTRATED WITH
NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS.

—
BY THE EDITOR OF THE NEWS.
—

WITH AN
APPENDIX,
CONTAINING A NUMBER OF ORIGINAL LETTERS FROM LADY
PERCEVAL AND JOHN MITFORD, ESQ.
NEVER YET PUBLISHED.

"Nobility with us is an object of contempt when the action corresponds not with the rank; and high birth or exalted stations, so far, in our home-spun ideas, from forming an excuse for mean and dirty actions, is their greatest aggravation."—THE NEWS, June 6, 1813.

LONDON:
PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY T. A. PHIPPS, NEWS OFFICE, 28,
BRYDGES-STREET, COVENT-GARDEN.
AND SOLD BY ALL BOOKSELLERS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.
1814.



TO THE PUBLIC.



STANDING as I do under the charge of a *Libeller**—of a libeller of Lady Viscountess Perceval,—it would be both indecent and improper in me, on this occasion, to make any comments on her ladyship's conduct. I am accused of stating in my paper (*The News*), that I gave credit to the solemn oath of Mr. Mitford, when he affirmed, that he had received the forged letters in question from Lady Perceval. Had I not done so, I never should have published them.

* This circumstance was amply commented upon by Mr. Holt, in the late Trial, and was urged by him to the Jury, as an impeachment of my evidence in favour of Mitford. How unjustly, will appear from the two following circumstances:—1st. I was *not* subpoenaed as a witness by Mitford's, but by Lady Perceval's attorney, and attended the Trial not as *his* but as *her* evidence. If I was supposed to be a partial witness, why did she subpoena me? 2d. I do lay under the imputation of a libeller of Lady Perceval; and have lain under that imputation ever since July 1813, when she tendered a bill against me at Hick's Hall. But it has not been my fault; and Mr. Holt, when he made his speech, knew that it had not been my fault, that the imputation was not long since either justified or done away. The cause was expected to come on at the September Quarter Sessions; and I then publicly declared my readiness to meet it, but Lady Perceval removed it by *certiorari* into the Court of King's Bench. In that Court it was set down for Trial last Michaelmas Term; and again I declared my readiness to answer the accusation; but again Lady Perceval put it off. It was expected to come on last Hilary Term, and a third time I attended with my legal defenders. But a third time it was put off, at Lady Perceval's suggestion. Am I then not justified in saying, that had her ladyship been half as eager to wipe off the imputation on her name, as I have been to erase it from mine, her counsel (Mr. Holt) would never have had the opportunity of throwing a doubt on my evidence, on account of my lying under the charge of being a libeller?—*Edit.*

I do so still, and now am borne out in my credence by the *fiat* of a Jury and the *dictum* of a Judge. I am also accused of having imputed to Lady Perceval a knowledge of the letters, previous to the moment Mr. Mitford delivered them for publication into my hands. In other words, I am accused of saying, that her Ladyship either forged the letters, or uttered them knowing them to be forged. Such "is the head and front of my offending." As this point is still unsettled, I shall therefore at present decline entering into any remarks on her ladyship's conduct towards me. A plain narrative of facts, is however necessary, as a key to the following trial; and this I shall transcribe principally from statements made in my defence, from time to time, in *The News*, adding to them such circumstances of an important nature, as have, since their insertion, come to my knowledge; and which I have had opportunities of verifying.

EXTRACT FROM THE NEWS OF APRIL 11TH, 1813—THE SUNDAY AFTER THE PUBLICATION OF THE FORGED LETTERS, BEING THE EXPLANATION I HAD INFORMED LADY PERCEVAL, I FELT MYSELF BOUND IN HONOR TO MAKE TO THE PUBLIC.

The Editor of the News to the Public.

"I am well aware, that in the appeal I am about to make to the Public, I should state a *very strong case*, to justify the disclosure of documents and circumstances of the nature of those which follow. Not all the abuse poured upon me by my brother Editors, in which they have not been sparing, for having published what they have been pleased to call 'a gross imposition and forgery'—not all the reflections which have been put forth upon the weakness of my understanding, and upon my fitness to conduct a newspaper, for suffering myself to be imposed upon by what Mr. PERRY, of *The Chronicle*, and others, have presumed to term, 'so palpable and at the same time so audacious a forgery'—

nothing of this kind would have made the least impression upon me*. I have been too many years the Conductor of a newspaper, not to be well aware of the little jealousies uniformly shown towards any journal, distinguished by the confidence of a party which may happen to stand high in the popular estimation. I know too well how prone many of us are to run down another, whom they suspect enjoys a confidence from which they are excluded, to suffer the scurrility of a host of public writers to give me a moment's uneasiness. Had I been called a dupe,—had I been accused of being associated with an impostor,—had every provocation been given me to speak out, which the English language is capable of, my defence should have rested upon my simple asseveration; and I would have trusted to the general character of my newspaper, to have convinced the public, that I was not likely to become the one, or capable of associating myself with the other. Something else than the undeserved abuse of my contemporaries was wanting, to induce me to break the charm which bound me to secrecy. That something, I regret to say, has been applied, and that charm, which bound me to secrecy, is broken, by the very hand which originally formed it. It is a painful task I have imposed upon myself; but I feel I owe it to the public, from whom I derive a liberal competency,—I feel I owe it to my character and reputation, as a man of integrity, and as a man pretending to some discernment,—to prove that I have *not* been imposed upon; and that I have *not* published, wilfully or intentionally (what has been since pronounced to be)—a forged document.

“To the regular Readers of *The News*, it is unnecessary to expatiate on the enthusiasm with which I have advocated,

* My brethren were however by no means sparing of me on this occasion. I was like the wounded deer, almost run down by the herd. One was amazed at my stupidity; another was astonished at my gullibility; and a third kindly promised me the pillory for my pains.—*Edit.*

what I shall always advocate and consider as a sacred and just cause—the cause of her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales.

“On the 14th of February, I published her Royal Highness’s letter to the Prince Regent, with such observations upon it as appeared to me to be just and proper. The next day, Monday, I received, through the medium of Mr. Parish, Stationer, No. 159, Strand, two letters, of which the following are authentic copies. The originals are in my possession :—See *Appendix* Nos. I. and II.

“It is here necessary to observe, that both these letters are in the hand-writing of the *same* person—Lady Viscount Perceval. This remark is necessary, to explain some of the subsequent occurrences, and is not intended to convey the slightest reflection on Lady Perceval, who, I was informed, had authority from Lady Anne Hamilton to make use of her name in every thing which concerned the Princess of Wales. —The next letter from Lady Perceval I received the week following, and is also in her ladyship’s hand-writing :—See *Appendix* No. III.

“Enthusiastic as I was, and ever shall be, in the *just cause* of her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, I cannot deny that I experienced considerable gratification from the receipt of these letters; more especially knowing, as I did, the intimacy which prevailed between the noble writer, and the illustrious lady whom I was endeavouring to defend. It was not, however, until the 15th of March, after seeing several communications from Montague-house to different newspapers, *The Pilot*, &c. &c. that I presumed respectfully to put in my claim to such authentic information from that quarter as might gratify the public interest, and enable me in a better manner to fight for that cause under which I had with so much zeal enlisted. On that day I addressed the following letter to Lady Anne Hamilton*, and delivered it *myself*,

* In point of fact I never should have thought of addressing Lady

at her ladyship's house, No. 4, Manchester-street, Manchester-square :—See *Appendix*, No. IV.

“ I now arrive at the interesting part of my narrative—at that part in which I introduce *my principal character*. On Sunday, the 21st of March, I was called down from some friends, with whom I was sitting, to speak to a gentleman who sent up his card, ‘ Mr. John Mitford.’ On my entering into the room in which this gentleman had been shewn, he commenced the conversation by saying, he had learned that I had written a letter to Lady Anne Hamilton ; which I admitted : and we proceeded to remark on the peculiar situation of her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales ; who, he said, had condescended to express herself much pleased at my zealous exertions in her cause. After conversing with me for some time, with a view, as I thought, to sound me, he said he was intrusted with a letter to me from Lady Anne Hamilton, which letter he delivered to me, and the following is an accurate copy. The original is in my possession * :—See *Appendix* No. V.

“ I must here remark, that this letter, although written in the name of Lady Anne Hamilton, and in answer to one I had addressed to that lady, *is in the hand-writing of Lady Viscountess Perceval*. The reason of this I have explained above. After Mr. Mitford had delivered to me this letter, which he announced as his credentials, he proceeded to say, that in the course of the week I should be favoured with some

Anne Hamilton, or any other lady, on this subject, had I not received the letters, Nos. I. II. and III. They were called on Mitford's *Trial mere orders* for my paper ; but are newspaper orders from persons of such rank, as Ladies Perceval and Hamilton, in general couched in such flattering terms as these are ? I understood them as indirect invitations for me to make an offer of my services, and I do not think I shall be charged with vanity in having put that interpretation on them.—*Edit.*

* This letter was on the late *Trial* shewn to Lady Anne Hamilton, who positively denied she had given authority to Lady Perceval to write such an one.—*Edit.*

documents of great importance, which were intended for publication, on the part of her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales; and he promised I should see him on that subject the day following. He did not, however, come until Wednesday, March 24, when he expressed some surprise, that a packet (which he said had left Blackheath about the time he had) had not arrived at my house. This packet he stated to contain two letters of importance, which the Princess wished to be published. He remained with me from about six o'clock in the evening until past one o'clock on the Thursday morning; and in the mean time wrote several paragraphs upon a variety of subjects, connected with the case of her Royal Highness, all of which are now in my possession. In the course of the time he remained with me, he frequently expressed much surprise at the *non-arrival* of the packet, and promised that early on the next morning I should hear from him on that subject; for which purpose he would breakfast with me at ten o'clock. Instead of calling at the hour appointed, about noon on the Thursday, I received from him the following letter:—See *Appendix*, No. VI.

“ The next day, Friday, March 26, Mr. Mitford came about four o'clock to my house, accompanied by Mr. Speechley*, a relative of Lady Perceval, and delivered to me for publication a statement of two occurrences which had taken place at Montague-house on that morning. The following is a correct copy of the paper he gave to me, now in my possession, *all in the hand-writing of Lady Viscountess Perceval*. The day afterwards, Mr. Mitford informed me, in the presence of Mr. Speechley, that this statement was copied by Lady

* This young man is, I have since learned, not a relative of Lady Perceval, but the nephew of a woman who has lived many years in her ladyship's family, and who was her nurse. On the Trial, Lady Perceval denied having sent any articles, particularly to *The News*, for insertion; and yet Speechley, more than once, accompanied Mitford to my house, and, it is natural to suppose, with the knowledge of Lady Perceval, with whom he constantly resided.—*Edit.*

Perceval, from a letter in the hand-writing of her Royal Highness, addressed to her ladyship. See *Appendix*, No. VII.

“ Mr. Mitford requested me to write some remarks on these two occurrences, and from the same authority, he desired I would publish the particulars of ‘ *the New Secret Inquiry*,’ and the circumstance of the offer of 20,000*l.* being made to Captain Manby, which I published in *The News*, of Sunday, March 28. Mr. Mitford came again to my house on the Saturday, March 27, and having read my manuscript observations on the two occurrences, he expressed his entire approbation of them. Learning from me, that he might have a *proof-sheet* of the next day’s paper as early as seven o’clock on that evening, he said he should call to see it, and about eight o’clock he returned, accompanied by Mr. Speechley; when he read over what I had written, on the ‘ *New Inquiry*,’ on the offer made to Captain Manby, and on the two occurrences relative to the two-penny post letters, and the delivery of the Duchess of Brunswick’s Will; which had on the day before taken place at Montague-house. Of all he was pleased to express his great approbation; observing (in Mr. Speechley’s presence), that he had no doubt they would afford much pleasure at Blackheath*.

“ On the following Monday, March 29, Mr. Mitford again called; he spoke in the warmest terms of the satisfaction *The News* of the preceding day had given at Blackheath, and said, he expected a packet to arrive at my house, between the hours of four and six, addressed to himself. This packet, he said, was to contain the letters which passed between her Royal Highness the Princess Charlotte of Wales, and her Royal Father, respecting the visit of the former to her illustrious mother. These letters, Mr. Mitford informed me, were to be published in *The News* of the ensuing Sun-

* By “Blackheath,” I always understood Mitford to mean Lady Perceval, whose residence is in Dartmouth-row, Blackheath.—*Edit.*

day. During the time he remained with me, and whilst waiting for the arrival of the packet alluded to, he wrote, in my presence, a letter to Mr. Walter, of The Times office, authenticating the intelligence in *The News*, of the preceding day, respecting the two-penny post letters,—the Duchess of Brunswick's Will,—Captain Manby,—and the New Inquiry:—informing him *it would oblige* her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, if he would, in The Times, take some notice of these circumstances, which were all correct. After remaining some time, waiting with much anxiety for the packet he had spoken of, he went away, first writing and delivering to me, *open*, the following letter*, to be given to the seryant, who was expected to bring it:—See *Appendix*, No. VIII.

“ It is here necessary to remark, that on my shewing this letter to Lady Anne Hamilton, to whom it is addressed, on Sunday last, Lady Anne assured me *she never saw Mr. Mitford!* I have no reason to doubt the word of her ladyship. The candour which I experienced from her, in a long audience with which she honoured me on that day, convinces me I may implicitly rely on every word she uttered†. Her ladyship, however, at the same time referred to what she had before informed me respecting the *carte blanche*, which Lady Perceval possessed, of using her name, and expressed no other sentiment than surprise, at the familiar manner in which this note was couched.

“ I now arrive at another interesting epoch of this curious business, to which I request my readers' particular attention.

* Some use was endeavoured to be made of this letter against Mitford, on the Trial, as having addressed a letter to a lady, who swore she knew nothing of him. But it was proved from her own letters, that Lady Perceval desired him occasionally to write to her under the cover of Lady Anne Hamilton's name.—*Edit.*

† Her ladyship has, however, since undeceived me as to this conviction; for on the Trial her oath and mine, as to the circumstances which passed at this interview, were directly opposed to each other.—*Edit.*

On Mr. Mitford leaving me on the Monday evening, March 29, he promised to return early on the following morning. At some inconvenience to my private concerns, I waited at home for him the whole of Tuesday,—he never came near me;—the same on Wednesday;—still he absented himself. On the evening of that day, weary of giving up my time to a man who appeared so inattentive to the business intrusted to him, I addressed a letter to ‘John Mitford, Esq. at Viscountess Perceval’s, Curzon-street, Mayfair;’ and, consistent with my idea of the delicacy proper on such an occasion, I delivered it myself at her ladyship’s house, to a servant, who said Mr. Mitford was not there, but that he should quickly be in possession of it. Of this letter I preserved no copy, but as far as my recollection carries me, it was written in rather an angry manner, at his suffering me to remain so long in a state of anxious expectation; and it concluded by requesting to let me see him as soon as possible, on account of the advanced state of the week. I naturally expected to hear from him on the following day; but having waited without effect until seven o’clock, I left home for the purpose of passing the evening in Greek-street, Soho. In the interim he called at my house about ten o’clock, and having learned where I was, he came to me, and between ten and eleven I was called from my friends by a servant, and introduced to the long-expected Mr. Mitford. He commenced by apologizing for his apparent inattention, and then produced a paper, which contained the letters I published in *The News* of last Sunday: these letters I again publish this day, and I leave it to the public to decide, from what I have already stated, and shall further state, whether they *are* or *are not* genuine; and whether, coming from the respectable source they did, I could or ought to have entertained any suspicion of their being fabricated documents. It is certainly not in my power to prove their authenticity, nor have I seen the originals; and if I had, I should not stand better as to proof,

not even knowing the hand-writing of the noble lords whose correspondence they purport to be. But, if they are forgeries, it is easy for the noble lords to declare them such; and the silence of these noble lords respecting this correspondence is well worthy of remark and consideration. This, however, I boldly aver: I received these documents from Mr. John Mitford, from the same person who, on Sunday the 21st of March, called and delivered to me a letter in answer to one I had written to Lady Anne Hamilton, a circumstance known only to Lady Anne and myself, unless, as I presume, and I confidently appeal to her ladyship to contradict it, if I am in an error—she sent my letter to Lady Viscountess Perceval for consideration and for reply. At any rate, I am able to prove the answer this gentleman brought me is in the hand-writing of Lady Perceval. I therefore repeat, I received these documents from him, from the same person who, on Friday the 26th of March, brought me the statement of two occurrences which had that morning taken place at Montague-house, respecting the receipt of two two-penny post letters, and the disrespectful delivery of the *will* of the late Duchess of Brunswick; a statement now in my possession, and which I am able to prove is *all* in the hand-writing of Lady Viscountess Perceval. Thus did I come into possession of these letters which have been pronounced forgeries; but which I must, until contradicted by one of the noble lords, believe to be, with the exception of some verbal inaccuracies, strictly genuine*.

“On delivering to me these letters, Mr. Mitford stated that he was directed by the Princess of Wales to give them to me for the purpose of publication †, and that they were to

* Such undoubtedly was my conviction at the time I wrote this article, and it was a good deal strengthened by the forbearance of the noblemen in question, in not bringing me up to the bar of the House of Lords. I need not add, my opinion on this subject is now reversed.—*Edit.*

† On the Trial I was sharply questioned by Mr. Holt, as to the ground

appear in *The News* of the Sunday following. I lamented the advanced state of the week ; observing, that it afforded me a very small scope of time for previously informing the public; that I was about to publish such important documents. To this he replied, that I should print hand-bills, &c. &c. which I agreed to do. He staid with me nearly an hour; and in the course of conversation; took occasion to repeat the very favourable commendations the Princess of Wales had been pleased to bestow upon my exertions in her behalf; and to confirm his words, he took from his pocket a letter, which he informed me was written by her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, and presented it to me to read *. Having requested me to make some remarks on the documents *he left with me*, he took his leave, promising to call the next day, when he said he should be able to bring me the last letter of Lord

on which I made the above assertion,—it being deemed by him incompatible with Mitford's oath, that he had received these letters from Lady Perceval; and with my evidence to the same effect. Mr. Mitford certainly did once inform me, that he received *directions* from the Princess of Wales to give me the forged letters for publication; but he always said, that he had them from the hands of Lady Perceval, with similar orders. I then deemed his information, as to the Princess, an *embellishment* of an actual fact; and the circumstance of his oath not confirming it, makes me still suppose it so.—*Edit.*

* For a copy of this letter see *Appendix*, No. IX. As to its authenticity, I have had several opinions. Her Royal Highness's Vice Chamberlain, Mr. St. Leger, at once pronounced it a forgery. Lady Anne Hamilton's opinion of it I have given in my evidence on the Trial. One remarkable circumstance which attends this letter, may produce conviction in the minds of many, that it is a genuine production.—I shall therefore mention it. Her Royal Highness generally signs C. P. in the manner of a cypher or anagram, the two letters in one. The signature to this note is not so—the letters are separate, C. P. Now a person intending to forge the hand-writing of another would, it is probable at least, endeavour to copy such a peculiarity as that here named. The outward signs of imitation, it is natural to suppose would, at least, appear in a forgery. Whether or not it be a forgery, it does not, in the least, impeach Mr. Mitford's credibility; for he always asserted, that the letter was given to him by Lady Perceval.—*Edit.*

Liverpool, which had not arrived when he left Blackheath that morning, but the contents of which *they* knew. He returned to me on the Friday, April 2, according to his promise, and having read the observations I had written on the documents, he expressed a great inclination that I would suffer him to take them to Blackheath, promising to return them to me the same evening. This I agreed to. He then expressed a wish to have the manuscript he had given me returned to him that he might make such corrections as it required, having before told me that he copied it in the presence of the Princess of Wales; but that "her Royal Highness talking to him during the time, confused him, and he was fearful there might be a verbal error or two in it." I gave him his manuscript, which he almost immediately returned into my hands, saying, "*I must not deprive you of this, for you will want it to print by during my absence.*" Having, however, informed him, that I had taken a fair and correct copy, he again took it, and put it, with my manuscript remarks, in his pocket.—Before he left me, I asked whether I was taking too great a liberty in requesting of him to give me the note he had shewn me the evening before from her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, observing, that it would afford me considerable gratification to be in possession of a letter in which my humble exertions were noticed by so illustrious an individual? he gave it me immediately. We then parted; Mr. Mitford repeating his promise of returning in the evening with my manuscript remarks, a corrected copy of the document, and the last letter of Lord Liverpool. As I did not see this gentleman again until Sunday last, when I met him *coming out of Lady Perceval's house, in Dartmouth Row, Blackheath*. I must here make a few observations on this his last visit to me."

I lay claim to no other discernment in distinguishing a rogue from an honest man, than that which an active life and some knowledge of the world of necessity confer on every one.

The conduct of Mr. Mitford in concealing himself, and in tamely submitting to be called opprobrious names, stamp no credit upon his character. Still I acquit, wholly acquit him of any premeditated design in taking the two manuscripts with him on Friday, as I have described. I am sure that had I expressed the smallest objection to his having either of them, he would directly have admitted it. In point of fact, I rather gave them him than he took them. Besides, if he then entertained an idea either of imposing upon me, or afterwards of disavowing me, why give me the Princess of Wales's letter, in which I was so honourably mentioned? why provide me with this weapon? her Royal Highness's letter was not necessary to make me confide in him more than I did. Why, I repeat, then give me such an important document, if he meant to rob me of my own manuscript, and never see me again? I knew him as the man, who had brought me important information—information which I had published, and which, *if not correct*, I knew myself amenable to the law for having so done. I knew him as the man who had brought me information in the hand-writing of Lady Perceval; information which, in the presence of a friend of mine, Mr. Speechley stated to be copied by her ladyship, from a letter in the hand-writing of the Princess of Wales. What reason, therefore, had I to mistrust him, and what reason had he to give me a letter as from her Royal Highness, if he then intended to deceive me?—I now resume my narrative.

“ Having waited with anxiety the return of Mitford the whole of Friday night, and great part of Saturday, I imagined some accident had befallen him. He had left me with strict orders to publish the documents, and he knew that I had an authentic copy of them. I therefore conceived I was right in proceeding, more especially as I was in some degree pledged to the public; having, by Mr. Mitford's directions, issued hand-bills, advertisements, &c. &c. Still, two words

from him would have stopped me,—a consideration which much influenced me in publishing them. I, therefore, as well as I was able, from recollection, re-wrote the remarks Mr. Mitford had, on the previous day, taken away with him, and submitted the whole to the public in *The News* of Sunday last*. Deeming it however respectful to Lady Perceval, that she should be informed of the hasty manner in which Mr. Mitford's extraordinary conduct had compelled me to write my remarks on the important documents I published, I wrote her Ladyship the following letter, which was delivered at *Perceval Lodge*, Blackheath, with a newspaper, about eight o'clock last Sunday morning:—See *Appendix*, No. X.

“In consequence of this letter, I was, about 12 o'clock last Sunday morning, waited upon by Mr. Speechley, the gentleman who had twice accompanied Mr. Mitford to my house. He said he came from Lady Perceval, that she knew nothing of the letters, and that she feared *there was some mistake*. This surprised me, and I determined to wait on Lady Anne Hamilton. On sending up my card, I was immediately admitted, and my first question was—“Whether her ladyship believed the letters authentic?”—She replied, she knew nothing of them. I then entered into an explanation of all that had passed between Mr. Mitford and myself, on which her ladyship said, “She never saw Mr. Mitford; but believed him to be a distant relative of Lady Perceval, and that *if I was sure I received them from him (Mr. Mitford), she saw nothing on the face of the letters, which gave her*”

* This extraordinary conduct of Mr. Mitford occasioned all the subsequent occurrences respecting these letters. It was, I really believe, “a mistake,” that the letters were published *on the day* they were. The plot *then*, was not properly prepared; the agent *then*, was not properly disposed of at the Tiger's Head, at Lea; or at Mother Hardecastle's, at Woolwich, as originally intended. In another week all these minor arrangements might have been made; and the Editor of *The News* left to hunt his *quondam* acquaintance, Mitford, without effect, through all the mad-houses in the kingdom.—*Edit.*

reason to doubt their authenticity. That her name being to one of them, a little surprised her, as it was the usual *etiquette* to affix the signature of the lady in waiting to all such documents, and that Lady Charlotte Lyndsay was then in waiting. But still referring to the *carte blanche* she had given Lady Perceval as to using her name, she was unable decisively to pronounce them forgeries.—On the whole, I quitted her ladyship with my mind much relieved from the idea of having imposed a spurious statement on the public*. On my return home, I found Lady Perceval had sent a servant from Blackheath, *express*, with the following letter, in her ladyship's hand-writing:—See *Appendix*, No. XI.

I must, *at present*, decline entering into any particulars of my long interview with Lady Viscountess Perceval†. Suffice it to say, she declared she knew nothing of the letters; that Mr. Mitford was subject to fits of insanity, in one of which she supposed he had given me them, and that she hoped I would contradict them, and declare them *forgeries*. I had met Mr. Mitford on my entrance into the house, but he ran from me. I left her ladyship in a state of mind that convinced me some person's reputation was to be sacrificed‡; but having directly on my arrival in town disclosed the whole to a confidential friend, with a view of taking advice what steps I should pursue, I wrote the following letter to her ladyship,

* It is proper here to remark, that on the Trial, Lady Anne Hamilton roundly denied every word of the statement here made. I may observe, in defence of my veracity, that I wrote the above account and published it *six days* only after the interview took place. Lady Anne Hamilton knew at the time, that I had made such a statement, and yet she then contradicted but one part of it, that respecting the *carte blanche*. On the Trial, however, she denied it *in toto*.—*Edit.*

† The particulars of this interview are however very fully explained in my evidence on the Trial.—*Edit.*

‡ How correct I was in this presentiment the Trial will abundantly show.—*Edit.*

which, late as it was, I delivered that night at Perceval Lodge:—See *Appendix*, No. XII.

Here ends my part in this mysterious affair. I have had applications made to me during the week from Lady Perceval, to induce me to withhold what I now publish; but I have uniformly rejected them. I, therefore, with confidence, throw myself on the public, to judge between me and those who have employed me. I call on Mr. John Mitford to come forward, and avow the part he has had in this transaction. If the documents I published last Sunday, and which I re-publish this day, are forgeries, who gave him those forgeries? come forward I again say, Mr. Mitford, in a manly manner, and reply to my questions.

I now conclude my narrative. Every circumstance *not* strictly within the line of my justification, I have withheld, and it remains for the same power which has called forth this my defence, to draw them from their present state of darkness.

“ T. A. PHEPES.”

“*News*’ Office, Brydges-street.”

THE above is a *verbatim* Copy of the explanation I gave to the public, the Sunday after I inserted the forged letters in *The News*; an explanation which Lady Perceval at that time took so much pains to prevent appearing. In consequence of it, I was the same week assailed from various quarters. Lady Anne Hamilton published a statement, denying that she ever said that Lady Perceval had received a *carte blanche* from her to use her name. Lady Perceval also opened, but *from a masked battery*. She put Mr. Holt, the barrister, in front; and he (I must suppose by her authority), published the two

following letters in the Morning Chronicle :—See *Appendix*, No. XIII. and XIV.

How Mr. Holt, with all his special pleading, can reconcile these letters with the evidence *he* produced on the late Trial, I am at a loss to conceive. In both of them he asserts, that Mitford was a *lunatic* at the time he gave me the forged letters, and he brings a mad-house keeper of the name of Warburton to my house to corroborate his assertion. For some reason or another, however, this *ground* was abandoned on Mitford's trial. No attempt was then made to make him insane,—no Warburton was then called to prove it. Mr. Holt, who could in April 1813, so readily give it under his own hand, that Mr. Mitford's "*unfortunate situation was such as to divest him of all responsibility for his own actions,*" in February 1814, never once touches on that point :—was it not *tenable*, Mr. Holt? surely, sir, before you had put your hand and seal to such an assertion, you should have had the best, the very best of medical testimony to have supported you in it. The zeal, "*without knowledge,*" with which this "*legal counsel*" took the part of his noble client, was at that time evidently productive of much injury to her. Unqualified and bold assertions, when not founded in fact, are fatal to the party making use of them in a disputed case.

In the letter (No. XIV.) Mr. Holt had the daring folly, to assert, that *all the papers*, "*said to be in my possession by means of Mr. Mitford,*" were *forgeries*; and this he scrupled not to say, before he had seen *one* of them. This was improving on his employer with a vengeance. Her ladyship, when I told her on Sunday, April the 4th (as appears in my evidence), "*that I had other papers and letters in my possession given me by Mr. Mitford, some of which I had reason to suppose were in her hand-writing;*"—without asking to see them, at once informed me they were all forgeries. Mr. Holt, however goes further. He publishes the assertion to the world, and thereby shews himself either the assertor of

a direct falsehood, or a very careless searcher after the truth: Lady Anne Hamilton and Mr. Holt were however not the only persons who noticed my first appeal to the public. It roused Mr. Mitford, and I believe awakened in him a proper sense of the unmanly, dishonourable line of conduct he had, in a moment of weakness, consented to pursue. On the ensuing Thursday, the 14th of April, I received from him the following letter :—See *Appendix*, No. XV.

The receipt of this letter gave me some hopes, that Mr. Mitford began to feel what he owed to his own character—to me, and to the public. I did not, however, see him until the next Monday, when he called at my house. I was from home, and he sent me the following letter :—See *Appendix*, No. XVI.

I should here observe, that the last time I had seen this gentleman was, when he ran from me at Perceval Lodge, on Sunday, April 4th. *Fifteen days* had therefore elapsed since the publication of the forged letters.—Fifteen days, as he has described them to me,—of threatenings, of entreaties, and of continual persecutions*. Of Mr. Mitford's conduct I would wish to speak tenderly; because, though slow in

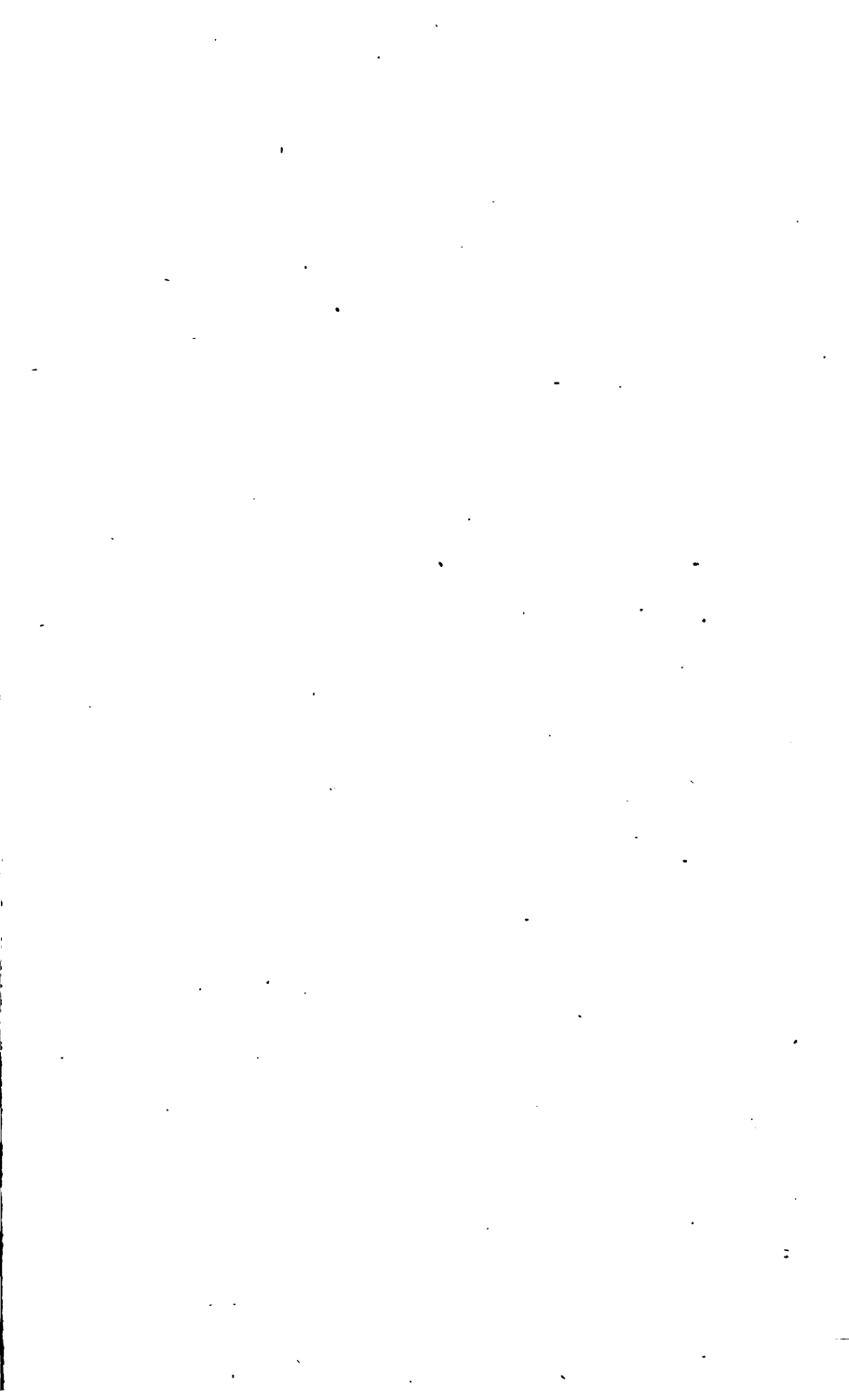
* I have reason to know, that during these fifteen days much havoc was made by burning a considerable quantity of Lady Perceval's letters to Mr. Mitford. Such was the influence she retained over the mind of this infatuated man, that he was prevailed upon in that period to destroy every letter of hers, which could be found at his lodgings in Crawford-street. Thus making himself the instrument, as far as lay in his power, of his own destruction. Providentially, however, both for himself and me, the letters I insert in the *Appendix* were not at his lodgings in Crawford-street; but had, from time to time, been emptied from his pockets, and thrown carelessly into a drawer, at the house of a relation at Little Chelsea, where he sometimes slept; and where they lay neglected and forgotten. This accounts for the comparative meagreness of my selection. Had all the letters from Lady Perceval to Mr. Mitford been preserved, instead of a pamphlet I must have put forth a thick quarto; for her ladyship possessed, during her connection with him, more of the "*cacæthes scribendi*" than I have ever before fell to the lot of one woman.—*Edit.*

performing; he ultimately acted as became a man of honour and integrity. An idea of the life he underwent in this period may be collected from the evidences of Messrs. Perceval, Speechley, and Hardeastle, on the late trial. As some excuse for his delay in giving the explanation he owed to me, I should mention, that for a long time previous, Lady Perceval had buoyed him up with hopes of procuring him some place, as a reward for his services in the newspaper business she employed him in. He had therefore been accustomed to consider her as a kind of patroness—as the person who had engaged to provide for himself and his family. Independent of these considerations, he had, notwithstanding her late treatment of him, a personal regard for her ladyship, the effect, it is probable, of a long and intimate connection. I mean not here to insinuate aught against the moral character of Lady Perceval. I simply mention the fact, that in his first interviews with me, after the publication of the forged letters, his remarks on her ladyship's behaviour towards him partook more of the wrathful ebullitions of disappointed affection, than of indignant resentment at the line of conduct, he said, she had prescribed for him. I have digressed thus far in justice to Mr. Mitford, purposely to excuse his delaying to do that which every man of principle would have performed immediately it was in his power. I now resume my narrative. The moment I saw him I demanded an explanation of his conduct. Almost my first words were, “Mitford, are you *what* you always represented yourself to me to be, or are you an impostor?” He disavowed, with indignation, the latter term; and offered the next day to put into my hands certain letters from Lady Perceval, addressed to him as proofs that he was her authorized agent, and that in every thing he had done he had acted by her desire and directions. I accepted his offer, accompanied him to Little Chelsea, where he said the letters were, and received from his hands those which I insert in the Appendix. Few as they are, they afford abundant proof

of the origin of the late discussion of the affairs of her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales. These letters prove, beyond the possibility of a doubt, that Lady Perceval and her agent Mitford raised the whole storm. In the progress of their *praiseworthy* undertaking, they were joined by many well-meaning persons, who had no idea of the latent spring which moved the entire machine. Amongst these I followed at a humble distance. In this proceeding I acknowledge I was not without blame. I suffered the warmth of my feelings to overcome my judgment, and gave a too hasty confidence to persons whose rank in life formed their only title to credit. My punishment has been—one Chancery suit, an action commenced against me at the Middlesex Quarter Sessions, and two suits at law in the Court of King's Bench, one of which is now depending. My ambition of connecting myself with persons in the elevated walks of life was never very great; I therefore trust, that four law-suits in eight months will reduce it within proper bounds*.

T. A. PHIPPS.

* I have omitted here to mention, that influenced by the same spirit which induced Mr. Mitford to put into my possession the letters here alluded to, he *voluntarily* offered, on Lady Perceval filing a bill against me, to make the affidavit which formed the ground of the late indictment.





THE TRIAL,

&c.

COURT OF KING'S BENCH,

Guildhall, Feb. 24, 1814.

BEFORE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE ELLENBOROUGH.

Libel.

The KING (*on the Prosecution of Kiscount Perceval, and Bridget, his Wife*) versus JOHN MITFORD, Esq.

MR. W. RAY OPENED THE PLEADINGS.

GENTLEMEN OF THE JURY,

THIS is an Indictment for Perjury, against John Mitford, Esq. on the Prosecution of Lord and Lady Perceval. The Indictment sets forth, that in the 53d Year of the King, a Conditional Rule of the Court of King's Bench was granted, whereby it was ordered, that, on the Monday then next ensuing, Thomas Adderley Phipps should shew cause, why a Criminal Information should not be filed against him for a Libel.—And the Defendant, Mitford, intending to procure, by false, wicked, and corrupt means, the said Rule to be discharged, went before Sir John Bayley, one of His Majesty's Justices of the Court of King's Bench, and

did swear, "That, on or about the 31st of March, he was sent for by Lady Perceval, to Perceval Lodge, Blackheath ; when she stated, that she had letters of great consequence to publish ; and, that Mr. Phipps, the Editor of *The News*, appeared to her the most likely person to do them justice.—That the experiment was a dangerous one, but something should be done to give satisfaction to the Princess of Wales ; by which Deponent understood, that these letters would compel them (Government) to give a greater establishment to the Princess of Wales.—That Lady Perceval then shewed Deponent three letters, signed by the Lord Chancellor, the Earl of Liverpool, Lord Castlereagh, and Lady Ann Hamilton ; observing, that the spirit of John Bull was declining, or dying away, but that the said letters would make him clamorous.—That, when they were published, it would be necessary for Deponent to be out of the way, for a few days ; and she had thoughts of him and his wife remaining at the Tiger's Head, at Lea ; but, on reflection, that seemed to be too near Blackheath ; she had, therefore, settled, that they were to go to the mother of her friend, Hardcastle, at Woolwich : and she asked, whether, if the worst happened, he would consent to be confined at Whitmore House, meaning Dr. Warburton's, at Hoxton ; stating, that it would be £2000 in his way. Deponent, not thinking the letters forgeries, expressed his surprise at Lady Perceval's apprehensions ; when she observed, that perhaps they might bring him to the bar of the House. He, having copied the letters, hastened to town to find out Mr. Phipps, to get them published in his newspaper.—He had no apprehension that they were forgeries, although he thought her conduct extraordinary." The Indictment goes on to deny, that Lady Perceval ever had any such letters, and that no such conference ever took place. To this the Defendant pleads, that he is not guilty of the perjury thus alleged.

MR. HOLT—*My Lord, and Gentlemen of the Jury,*

My learned Friend having stated the nature of this Indictment, and the principal points upon which the perjury is assigned, and thus put you in possession of the matters of fact which you are to try, it is now my duty to bring the case before you, in detail, but with all that brevity which the valuable time of the Court requires.

Gentlemen, the Prosecutors of this Indictment are Lord and Lady Perceval; his lordship, though not immediately connected with it, being introduced, in addition, in compliance with a necessary form. Lady Perceval is a woman of the most eminent rank and of the most irreproachable worth. She does not come forward to solicit the strict justice of the Court against the Defendant; she does not prosecute him from any particle of revenge, from any feeling of anger, but she comes forward to set herself right in a point of character; to which, in common with all honourable minds, she is most sensibly alive. The person prosecuted is Mr. Mitford, who became acquainted with Lady Perceval, from bearing the name of a family which she intimately knew, and to which she was allied. He took refuge in her family when he was discountenanced by his own relatives; and her ladyship, with that amiable goodness of heart, which she is known to possess, endeavoured to put him in some situation by which he might procure an honourable subsistence for himself and his family. The public mind was, at this time, agitated by the affairs of an illustrious personage; and, as Mr. Mitford occasionally saw Lady Perceval at Curzon-street and at Blackheath, he had, of course, an opportunity of hearing her opinions on the subject. In the month of April last, some letters relative to this topic were published in a Paper called *The News*. They purported to be signed by three noble lords, on the one part, and by Lady Anne Hamilton on the other. On the morning of the publication, the

Paper containing them, accompanied by a letter, was sent to Lady Perceval, at Blackheath. The letter informed her, that these documents came into the proprietor's possession, through the medium of the Defendant. Lady Perceval knowing nothing about the fabrication of the letters, but convinced that they were forged, (as well from the nature of the subject, as from the circumstance of the name of the lady in waiting subscribed not being that of the person who was actually in attendance on the Princess of Wales), immediately sent a gentleman of the name of Speechley to Mr. Phipps, for the purpose of stating that they were forgeries; and this gentleman was also the bearer of a letter, requiring Mr. Phipps to wait on Lady Perceval at Blackheath. She also dispatched her son, Mr. John James Perceval, for Mr. Mitford, with directions to bring him down to Perceval Lodge, that the parties might be confronted together, and that the forgery might be investigated. Notwithstanding this, Gentlemen, you will find, that the Defendant has charged Lady Perceval with forging these letters. He has sworn, that on or about the 31st of March, he received the documents from Lady Perceval, who expressed a desire that they should be published. But, you shall presently see how he acted on the morning of the publication. And here, Gentlemen, before I proceed farther, I wish to make a few remarks on the evidence. Evidence must always be guided by the rules of possibility; and in no case can you demand more evidence than it is possible to give. Where, therefore, there are two parties connected with a fact, and *one* has sworn that he only did that which the other required of him, we can have no direct evidence against the deposition, but the uncontradicted oath of the *other*, leaving it to you to judge of the criminality, by the degree of credibility due to the respective parties.

Gentlemen, if this principle were not applied, every person of character, and virtue, and importance in society, how-

ever unstained his life, however upright his life, might be thrown at the feet, might be left at the mercy of the most base and profligate individual in the community. In other words, Gentlemen, you will, in deciding upon this case, look to the tenor of the Defendant's conduct, and compare it with what he has alleged ; and if, in addition to the solemn oath of Lady Perceval, which you shall this day have, you find a long train of circumstances in the conduct of Mr. Mitford, confirming Lady Perceval's statement, and not agreeing with any thing that would shew his story to be true, you will then have all the evidence which the case will admit, and it would be contrary to common sense if you refused to give it its proper weight and importance.

Gentlemen, I have said, that on the day of publication, the paper containing the letters was sent to Lady Perceval ; that she stated them to be forgeries, and required Mr. Phipps to come to Blackheath. I have also told you, that she sent her son for Mr. Mitford, that she might confront them together, she having learned from the letter which accompanied the paper, that the documents had come through the hands of the Defendant. In consequence of this proceeding, Mitford arrived at Blackheath about four o'clock on the Sunday evening, and was shewn into a room belonging to Mr. Perceval. Two gentlemen, Messrs. Hardcastle and Speechley, who shall be produced before you, were present. While the Defendant remained in the room, Lady Perceval entered, with the letter and paper she had received, in her hand—She put the letter into the hand of the Defendant, and said, " Good God ! Mitford, what have you been doing ? " She gives him the letter, where Mr. Phipps accused Defendant with having given him the forged documents, and he reads it ; he next reads the paragraphs in the paper, and then most solemnly protests that he knows nothing about the documents, that he never saw them before, that he never gave them to Phipps, adding " D-mn the fellow, I never saw him more

than twice in my life!" and expressed a wish to seek for Mr. Phipps. This passed in the presence of Mr. J. J. Perceval, Mr. Hardcastle, and Mr. Speechley. Lady Perceval then tells him, that he must wait, as she had sent for Mr. Phipps, to confront them together, and expected him immediately. The Defendant manifests a wish to go, observing, that it was not possible for Mr. Phipps to come down, because he had to prepare his paper for publication on the following day. Lady Perceval, however, persisted in requiring him to stay. At this moment, her ladyship saw Mr. J. J. Perceval cross the yard, who immediately announces Mr. Phipps! Mitford immediately leaves the room, passes over the court-yard, greets Mr. Phipps with a shake of the hand, and, as the latter enters the house, the former absconds and disappears. It is unnecessary to say, what passed between Lady Perceval and Mr. Phipps, which will be fully detailed in evidence. But I may be allowed to state, that her ladyship received a denial of the authenticity of those documents, from Mr. Phipps, which Mr. Hardcastle afterwards published in *the other papers*.

Gentlemen, Lady Perceval's object now was, to learn where Mr. Mitford got these papers, and to find out what view he had in publishing them. For this purpose, Mr. Hardcastle went to his lodging, where he was denied. At different times, different pretences were resorted to, to account for his absence. At one time it was said, he had gone to Windsor with Colonel Bloomfield; but he could not be found there. Lady Perceval then sends her son, who, having seen Defendant at the window of his lodging, with great difficulty got admittance to him. On seeing Mr. Perceval, Mitford says, "I hope you are come to comfort me."—"I come," answered the other, "to take you down to Blackheath, to know the reason why you have committed these forgeries." Mitford said, he could not bear the interview, having committed an act which he would repent all his life; he added,

that he had long possessed the countenance and protection of Lady Perceval, and could not bear her frown. Mr. Speechley, who accompanied Mr. Perceval, then said, "What could induce you to put forged documents into the hands of the Editor of *The News*?"

Gentlemen of the Jury, he does not deny the fact. He answers, "The distress of my family forced me to do it; I was offered a bribe, and could not withstand it." He added, "D-mn the rascals! I will publish their names." Here was a confession of crime, voluntarily made by the Defendant himself. He then said he would make a confession to Lady Perceval; and, with that intention, proceeded with these two gentlemen to Blackheath. They arrived there about twelve o'clock at night, but did not see Lady Perceval. The two gentlemen sat up with the Defendant, lest he should again escape. Sleep, however, overtook the one, and the other left the room on a temporary occasion. Of this the Defendant takes advantage; he escapes out of the window, and is never seen by Lady Perceval after that time. This is the substance of the evidence that I shall lay before you. The charge against Lady Perceval is, that she forged these letters; she will be produced before you, and she will contradict, paragraph by paragraph, the statements contained in the Defendant's Affidavit. The three other witnesses, Mr. Perceval, Mr. Hardcastle, and Mr. Speechley, will give you an account of what took place at Blackheath, on the 4th of April, and of the conversation which subsequently occurred at Mitford's lodgings. You will thus, Gentlemen, be put in possession of all the circumstances which I have mentioned; and a case will thus be made out in evidence, which it will be almost impossible to doubt.

Gentlemen, cases of this nature can have nothing to prop them besides the oath of the Prosecutor, except circumstances in the conduct of the person prosecuted. Both of these will appear on the present trial. Three kinds of evidence

only can be admitted in courts of justice,—1st, The positive oath of a party; 2d, Circumstantial evidence; in which a variety of circumstances are found to correspond: and, 3d, which is best of all, The confession of a party himself. In the present case, Gentlemen, these three species of evidence will be found to concur. You shall have the positive oath of Lady Perceval—gentlemen will be called, who will state a number of corroborating circumstances: and, lastly, you shall hear the confession of the Defendant himself.

Mr. ALLEY (*of Counsel for the Defendant*)—As you speak of a confession, all the witnesses must go out of Court, mine as well as your own.

The witnesses were accordingly ordered to withdraw.

Mr. S. VINES, *Solicitor for the Prosecution, was the first witness called; he was examined by Mr. E. LAWS.*—

Q. Have you the Rule *Nisi* obtained in the Court of King's Bench, in June last?—A. Yes, sir.

Produce it.—Mr. Vines here exhibited the rule.

Q. Is this the original rule?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Is the Defendant in this prosecution the person named in that rule?—A. The rule was obtained against Mr. Phipps—the affidavit of Mr. Mitford was sworn for the purpose of having it discharged.

Q. Is Mr. Mitford, the present Defendant, the man named in that rule?—A. Not in the first rule—but in the order for discharging the first rule.

The Rule was here put in and read.

MONDAY, next after the Octave of the Holy Trinity, in the Fifty-third Year of King George the Third.

Middlesex. UPON reading the Affidavit of The Right Honourable John Lord Perceval and another, and parts of two printed Newspapers, intituled "The News, Sunday, April 4, 1813," and "The News, Sunday, June 6, 1813;" It is ordered that Monday next be given to

Thomas Adderley Phipps to shew Cause why an Information should not be exhibited against him for certain Misdemeanours in Printing and Publishing certain Scandalous Libels upon notice of this Rule to be given to him in the mean time.

On the motion of Mr. Holt.

By the Court.

Mr. Richard Gude, examined by Mr. E. LAWS.

Q. Are you a clerk in the Crown Office?—A. Yes.

Q. Have you the affidavit of the Defendant, mentioned in the indictment?—A. Yes.

Q. (By Lord ELLENBOROUGH),—You bring it from the Crown Office?—A. Yes, my Lord.

The affidavit was handed in.

Mr. Daniel Tobin, examined by Mr. E. LAWS.

Q. You are clerk to Mr. Justice BAYLEY?—A. I am.

Q. Was this affidavit sworn by the Defendant Mitford, before Mr. Justice BAYLEY?—A. It was.

Q. And signed by him?—A. Yes.

Q. (By Lord ELLENBOROUGH),—Do you know the person swearing it?—A. Yes, my Lord.

Mr. ALLEY.—We admit it to be sworn by Mitford.

The affidavit was then read, as follows :—

THAT for many months prior to last March, he, Mitford, was employed by Lady Perceval to convey articles of intelligence, relative to the affairs of the Princess of Wales, to different newspapers. That on or about Wednesday, March 31, he was sent for to Lady Perceval, at her house at Blackheath, who informed him that she had letters of great consequence indeed to publish; and that Mr. Phipps appeared to her the man most likely to do them justice. That in the course of the same day Lady Perceval, in reference to the said letters, said to him, "That the experiment they were going to make was a dangerous one; but that something must be done to compel them to give a proper establishment to her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales." That shortly after, he, at the desire of Lady Perceval, and in her presence, copied, from a manuscript in the hand-writing of Lady Perceval, three letters as follow.—

No. I.

"WE are instructed by his Royal Highness the Prince of WALES, to make known to your Royal Highness, that a proposition, comprehending the extension of your Royal Highness's establishment on a larger scale, will be submitted to your Royal Highness's consideration on Thursday next.

We are, &c. &c.

" ELDON,

" LIVERPOOL,

" CASTLEREAGH.

" Carlton House, Tuesday.

" To her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales."

No. II.

" Montague House, Wednesday.

" I AM commanded to acknowledge the receipt of a letter, signed ELDON, LIVERPOOL, and CASTLEREAGH, by her Royal Highness the Princess of WALES, and to desire you to acquaint the authority from whom it originated, that nothing short of THE FULL ESTABLISHMENT IN HER RIGHTS will satisfy her Royal Highness, as that is the only means of convincing the people of England, beyond a doubt (*which some have dared to express*), of her full and perfect innocence.

" Her Royal Highness also commands me to add, that she peremptorily insists, as the first step towards her long withheld dignities, that her apartments in Carlton House be assigned over to the care of her Royal Highness's own proper servants.

" Finally, Her Royal Highness will not return any reply to any question or proposition that may be made hereafter, until her Royal Highness is assured, that the secret and illegal examinations, now for a time suspended, are put to a conclusion, never again to be revived.

" I am, &c. &c.

ANNE HAMILTON."

" To Lord Eldon," &c.

No. III.

" Thursday Morning.

" Lord LIVERPOOL is commanded to acquaint her Royal Highness the Princess of WALES, that her Royal Highness's Letter has been received—is now under consideration—and will be replied to early this evening."

That during the time he was copying these letters, Lady Perceval said to him, " that the spirit of John Bull was declining or dying away, but this would render him clamorous."—Lady Perceval also said to him, " that it would be absolutely requisite for him to be out of the way for a few weeks after the publication of these letters; and that she had at first thought of lodging him and his

wife (who must also not be seen) at the Tiger's Head, at Lea—but, upon reflection, that was too near Blackheath, and she had settled that they should go to the mother of her friend Hardcastle, at Woolwich, where they would be perfectly safe." He was then asked by Lady Perceval, "whether, if the worst happened, he would submit to be confined in Whitmore House (meaning Mr. Warburton's mad-house at Hoxton) till all was settled, as it would be at least 2000*l.* in his way when it was over? to which he consented; but not supposing the letters to be forgeries, he expressed his surprise at her ladyship's apprehensions. Lady Perceval then informed him that the danger was in his being brought to the Bar of the House, which, as he knew so much, would be very unpleasant. He then, having copied the aforesaid letters from a manuscript in the hand-writing of Lady Perceval, received her directions to hasten to town to find out Mr. Phipps, and to desire him to publish them in his newspaper. He did so: but Mr. Phipps being from home, he did not deliver them to him until Thursday, the 1st of April. On that day he delivered the said copies into the hands of Mr. Phipps, informing him he did so by orders from Lady Perceval. He also informed Mr. Phipps, that Lady Perceval desired he would publish the said letters in the next number of his newspaper, being Sunday, the 4th of April last; and he believes that Mr. Phipps did so. He also swears, that he had not at any time any reason to believe the letters to be forgeries—although the apprehensions of Lady Perceval struck him as being singular and unaccountable. He also says, that in the whole affair relative to the said letters, he acted by the direction of Lady Perceval; and that he has at this time no other reason to suppose them forgeries than the assertion of Lady Perceval."

Mr. S. Vines again called, and examined by Mr. E.

LAWs.—

Q. Are you the Solicitor that instructed Counsel to obtain this Rule *Nisi*?—*A.* Yes.

Q. Was it afterwards opposed in Court?—*A.* It was, Sir.

Q. You have heard the affidavit read?—*A.* Yes.

Q. Is the matter contained in it, relative and material to that Rule?—*A.* It is very much so.

LORD ELLENBOROUGH.—This is the first time I ever heard such a question asked.—It is for the Court to judge whether it is, or it is not relevant.

Q. Was that affidavit used in shewing cause against the Rule *Nisi*?—*A.* Yes.

Q. Was it in consequence of that affidavit that it was discharged?—

Mr. ALLEY.—You cannot ask that question.

Lord ELLENBOROUGH.—The Rule must speak for itself.
—It lies in the breast of the Court, whether it was discharged on that affidavit, or not*.

Q. Was the Rule discharged?

A. It was.

The Order for that purpose was here put in and read.

Bridget, Viscountess Perceval, sworn, and examined
by Mr. E. LAWS.—

Q. Did you, on or about Thursday, the 1st of April last, send to the Defendant John Mitford? A. Not to the best of my recollection—certainly not.

Q. Was it on Wednesday, the 31st of March?—A. Neither of those days, certainly.

Q. I don't ask, whether you saw him; but whether you sent for him?—A. To the best of my recollection, certainly not.

Q. When did you last see him in the month of March last?—A. On the 26th of March.

Q. When next, after the 26th of March, did you see him?—A. On the evening of April the 2d.

Q. Did you, at any time, between these two days see him?—A. Positively not.

Q. Did your ladyship see him on the 2d of April at Blackheath?—A. I did in the evening.

Q. At that time, when you saw him, or at any other time, did you ever mention to him, that you had letters of great consequence to publish?—A. Never.

Q. Did you ever say to him, that Mr. Phipps appeared to you, a man most likely to do justice to the Princess of Wales?—A. I never recollect to have used the expression.

Q. Did you ever speak to him of a dangerous experiment, with respect to certain letters?—A. Certainly never.

Q. But that something must be done to compel them to give a proper establishment to Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales?—A. Never.

* I have reason to believe that the rule was not discharged solely on that Affidavit, but in part upon the shewing of a letter to the Court written by Lady Perceval to the Defendant in that cause, in which she calls the insertion of the forged letters in *The News*, "a mistake," and invites him to her house, to confer with him *confidentially* about its rectification. See Appendix.

LORD ELLENBOROUGH—Repeat the question.

Q. Did you ever say, that the experiment you and the Defendant were going to make, was a dangerous one : but that something must be done to compel them to give a proper establishment to the Princess of Wales ?—**A.** I never did.

MR. E. LAWS—Lady Perceval, be so good as to look at the three letters in this paper, *The News*, of the 4th of April.

Q. Did the Defendant, Mitford, ever, by your ladyship's desire, and in your presence, make a copy of these letters ?—**A.** Never.

Q. Had your ladyship any manuscript of these letters ?—**A.** None whatever.

Q. When, and how, did your Ladyship first hear of, or see, those letters ?—**A.** The first time I heard of these letters was from Mr. Phipps, who sent me his paper of the 4th of April, accompanied by a letter.

Q. Was Mr. Phipps in the habit of sending you that paper ?—**A.** I had ordered that paper previous to the 4th of April.

Q. Was that paper taken in by you ?—**A.** It was regularly delivered at Perceval House previous to the 4th of April.

Q. Did your Ladyship ever make use of this expression to the Defendant, "That the spirit of John Bull was dying away ; but that these letters would renew his clamours ?"—**A.** I never used that expression.

Q. Did your ladyship ever tell Defendant, that it would be absolutely necessary for him to be out of the way for a few weeks, after the publication of these letters ?—**A.** Never.

LORD ELLENBOROUGH—You will pursue that mode most convenient to yourself, Mr. Laws ; but, as your present course makes it necessary for me to take down every word contained in the Indictment, would it not be better to read it over slowly, and ask the witness whether the whole or any part of it is true ?

Q. I ask you, whether you ever used these expressions to Defendant,—That you had thoughts, at first, of lodging him and his wife at the Tiger's Head, at Lea ; but that, upon recollection, it was too near Blackheath ; and that you had settled that he and his wife should go to your friend, Mr. Hardcastle's ?—**A.** In consequence of representations made by Mr. Mitford, previous to the 26th of March, that he was watched and pursued, and his house

beset by inquiries from those with whom he pretended to have had communications; and that Mrs. Mitford, in consequence of her alarms, was seriously indisposed, I did advise Mr. Mitford to remove her out of town for a little time; and, I believe, the first idea might have been for them to have remained at Lea, for that period.

Q. But was that communication with reference to these letters?—A. Certainly not. It was previous to the 26th of March.

Q. Was that before your ladyship had any knowledge or idea that such letters were in existence?—A. Assuredly it was.

Q. Did your ladyship ever ask Mitford, with reference to these letters, whether, if the worst happened, he would submit to be confined in Whitmore House?—A. Certainly not.

Q. Did your ladyship ever say to Mitford, that these letters would be at least £2000 in his way?—A. I never uttered the expression.

Q. Did your ladyship ever express to Mitford any apprehension with respect to these letters?—A. Never.

Q. Did your ladyship, on any occasion whatever, say, that there was a danger of Defendant being brought to the bar of the House of Commons or Lords?—A. Never.

Q. Lady Perceval, did you ever give Mrs. Mitford any directions respecting these letters?—A. Never.

Q. Was you in any way whatever privy to their publication?—A. Not in the least.

Q. Did you ever tell the Defendant to go to Mr. Phipps with them?—A. Certainly not.

Q. Or give any direction at all respecting them?—A. None whatever.

Q. I think your ladyship has said, the first you knew of them was, by seeing them in that paper of the 4th of April?—A. Yes.

Q. Upon seeing them in *The News* of that day, what did you do?—A. I immediately sent up Mr. Speechley.

Q. To whom did you send Mr. Speechley?—A. To Mr. Phipps.

Q. Who is Mr. Phipps?—A. The Editor of *The News*.

Q. For what purpose did you send Mr. Speechley to Mr. Phipps?—A. To inform Mr. Phipps that I knew nothing of the forged letters.

Lord ELLENBOROUGH—*Her* name is not mentioned in the letters.

Mr. LAWS—No, my lord; she had seen them in consequence of the newspaper being sent by Mr. Phipps.

Q. By Lord ELLENBOROUGH—Was it not a part of the terms

of your message, that the letters were *forged*?—*A.* I said I knew nothing of the letters in *The News* of the 4th of April.

Q. Have you the letter which you received with the newspaper from Mr. Phipps?—*A.* Yes. That is the letter.

Mr. ALLEY—Though it is evidence, I will not agree to its production, till I have cross-examined Mr. Phipps.

Q. It was in consequence of a letter from Mr. Phipps, as well as from seeing the paper, that you sent to him?—*A.* Yes.

Q. Did you send your son, Mr. Perceval, at any time to Mr. Mitford?—*A.* I sent my son to town to bring down Mitford to explain *his conduct*.

Lord ELLENBOROUGH—*His* name does not appear in the letters.

Lady Perceval—No, my lord.

Lord ELLENBOROUGH—Then state a reason for sending to him. We have it not in evidence what *his conduct* was. Let me not lead you (the counsel) to any thing inconvenient. I wish to bring you to that which will throw light on the subject.

Q. What was the reason you sent to explain his conduct?—*A.* It was in consequence of Mr. Phipps's letter to me that I sent to him.

Mr. LAWS.—The letter is here.

Mr. ALLEY.—You must take the letter *de bene esse*.—If you please you may call Mr. Phipps to prove it.

Lord ELLENBOROUGH.—That, I think, is correct.—The witness says, that in consequence of a letter she received, supposing it to come from Mr. Phipps, she took a particular measure, that of sending for Mitford.

Q. Did Mr. Mitford and Mr. Hardcastle go down to your house at Blackheath?—*A.* Mr. Mitford did afterwards come down.

Q. On what day, and at what time of the day?—*A.* On Sunday, April the 4th.

Q. The same day on which the letters were published?—*A.* The same day.

Q. At what hour did he come down ?—A. Between the hours of two and five.

Q. On his coming, what was the address you made to him ?—A. I came into my room with the newspaper in my hand.

Q. (By Lord ELLENBOROUGH.) Is *The News* the paper you speak of ?—A. Yes, my Lord.

Lord ELLENBOROUGH.—Then we shall so call it.

Q. What did you say to the Defendant ?—A. I had Mr. Phipps's letter in my hand, at the same time.

Q. What was the expression you used to Mitford ; did you give him the letter ?—A. I gave him the newspaper and the letter, and addressed him in these terms—

Q. Did he, in consequence, in your presence, read the letter, and the paragraphs of the letters in the newspaper ?—A. I don't recollect whether he read them or not.

Q. Did he read the letter you received from Phipps ? A. I don't recollect whether he did or not.

Q. Now be so good as to state the expression you used to him when you saw him ?—A. When first I saw him, presenting the newspaper and the letter, I said to him, " In God's name, Mitford, what have you been about ?"

Q. What was Mr. Mitford's reply ?—A. I proceeded to say, " Do you know any thing, or what do you know, about the letters in *The News* of this day ?" Mr. Mitford, in answer, said, " What do you mean ?"

Q. Upon that did you give to Mitford the letter ?—A. I gave him the letter, saying, " Read that letter, and you will understand what I mean."

Q. Did your ladyship repeat your question to him, whether he had any knowledge of the letter ?—A. I repeated it.

Q. In answer to these repeated questions, what was his reply ?—A. His answer was accompanied by an oath, that he never saw the fellow but twice in his life.

Q. Did he, upon that, propose to go to any person, and to whom ?—A. He proposed immediately to go to Mr. Phipps.

Q. Upon that proposition being made, what did your ladyship say to him ?—A. I informed him, that I had sent for Mr. Phipps, and expected him very shortly.

Q. Did Mr. Phipps afterwards arrive at your ladyship's house at Blackheath, and about what hour ;—A. He did,—I should imagine between four and six.

Q. On Mr. Phipps's arrival at your ladyship's house, what was the conduct of the Defendant, Mitford ?—A. The moment Mr.

Phipps was announced, he immediately rushed out of the room, and I saw no more of him.

Q. Did your ladyship afterwards again send Mr. Speechley and a Mr. Hardcastle to town, and on what errand?—A. I sent them to bring Mr. Mitford down.

Q. Lady Perceval, before I proceed in this part of the examination, I will ask you one question:—Did the Defendant, when you asked him whether he knew any thing of the letters, acknowledge them, or deny any knowledge of them?—A. He denied knowing any thing about them.

Q. Did he repeat that declaration more than once?—A. He repeated it, to the best of my recollection.

Q. It was the same day, the 4th of April, that you sent these two persons for him?—A. No, it was not on the Sunday evening.

Q. On what day was it you sent Speechley and Hardcastle to bring Mitford down?—A. It was on the Monday morning I requested them to go.

Q. When next did the Defendant, Mitford, come again to Blackheath?—A. He was brought down on the Wednesday evening, for on the three days I repeatedly sent for him.

Q. Did your ladyship see him on that occasion?—A. I did not.

Q. Then it is only by hearing it from other persons that you know he came to the house at that time?—A. Yes.

Q. Has your ladyship, then, ever seen him since the 4th of April?—A. No; certainly not.

Q. Is your ladyship quite certain you have not seen him from the 26th of March to the 2d of April?—Positively certain.

Cross examined by Mr. ALLEY.

Q. You have been some time acquainted with Mr. Mitford?—A. I have.

Q. A long time I believe?—A. Some time.

Q. I believe you knew where he lodged, and had taken the lodging for him in town?—A. I did not.

Mr. ALLEY—Let me take the liberty of telling you, Lady Perceval, that I have reasons for putting these questions, and I shall bring witnesses to state the facts. Therefore, do not answer hastily, I do not wish to embarrass or entrap you.

Q. Where did the Defendant lodge?—A. In Crawford-street, Portman-square.

Q. What was the name of the gentleman who kept the house?—A. I think the name was Donovan.

Mr. ALLEY.—You are perfectly right.

Q. Lady Perceval, I ask you, did you not recommend Mr. Mitford to Donovan, and obtain the lodging of Donovan, for him, upon your oath?—A. I spoke in favour of Mr. and Mrs. Mitford.

Q. Then it was only speaking in favour of them, as you call it; but was not that, in order to induce Donovan to take Mitford and his wife as lodgers?—A. As a recommendation.

Q. Your visits have been very frequent to Donovan's; at all hours of the day and night?—Lady Perceval (in accents of surprise)—“At all hours!”

Mr. ALLEY—Aye! I won't except any hours.

Q. At all hours of the day and night, on your oath were they not?—A. I have called occasionally by night.

Q. At all hours, ten, eleven, twelve, or one o'clock?—A. Never to my recollection, so late as twelve.

Q. Never to your recollection?—I wish you would brush it up, and give us something positive. I ask, did you never go there later than twelve?—A. Not to my recollection.

Q. Have you not been there after Mr. Mitford was in bed, much later than that?—A. Certainly not.

Q. Did you not send up letters to him, after he was in bed?

Lord ELLENBOROUGH.—You must split your question in parts. In delivering a letter, the witness might not know the Defendant was in bed.

Q. Did you ever deliver a letter to Mr. Donovan, or his servant, for Mr. Mitford, at the hour I have mentioned?—A. Not at that hour certainly.

Q. Pray what might have been the latest hour at which you ever called there?—A. Upon my word it is so long since, I cannot recollect.

Q. No! It is not a twelvemonth ago.—You have not lost your memory.—It is not impaired, I hope.—Pray where did you leave your carriage, when you made these visits?—A. It sometimes drew up to the door.

Q. Were you not in the habit of leaving it in back streets, when you sent to Mr. Mitford's?—A. Sometimes, from the state of the streets, it was impossible to drive up.

Q. Now, Lady Perceval, I ask you, did you not repeatedly leave your carriage at a distance, and walk up to the house?—A. When the state of the street did not permit the carriage to proceed, I was obliged to do so.

Q. Is it a crowded street?—A. No. The street was not paved. The streets around were not paved.

LORD ELLENBOROUGH.—If they were not paved, one would think, that would prevent you as much at one time as at another; but when these impediments in the streets were done away, then, I suppose, you drove up to the door?
—No answer.

Q. Do you mean to say, that there was no carriage way to Crawford-street, twelve months ago?—A. There was great difficulty in getting up to the door at the time.

MR. ALLEY.—You said, the street was not paved.—Give it as you please, I will take it.—Witness.—It was very difficult to come up the street.

LORD ELLENBOROUGH.—You said it was *impossible*, a while ago.

Q. Was not the street paved a twelvemonth ago?—A. I cannot recollect.

Q. Then I am not to take it as your answer, that, because the street was not paved, you could not come up?—A. The street could be come up, after it was paved.

Q. I thank you for your information.—The streets, it seems, were unpaved, before they were paved. Now, I ask you, were they not paved sufficiently to admit a carriage twelvemonths ago?—I ask you, on the oath you have taken, were not the streets paved a twelvemonth ago, so as to permit you to go up?—Were they not so paved previous to a twelvemonth ago?—A. They might—but *about* that time they were in such a state as to prevent a carriage being driven through them.

Q. Did you not often walk to the door, when your carriage could have taken you up to it?—A. Not that I recollect.

MR. ALLEY.—O! don't give me your recollection.—A lady would not walk in the dirt, when she had a carriage waiting, without some reason that must impress it on her memory.

Q. By LORD ELLENBOROUGH.—Your servant attended you to the door?—A. I presume so.

Q. By LORD ELLENBOROUGH.—You presume so!—Do you mean to say that he went to the door with you?—A. I think he attended me.

Q. Behind your carriage, no doubt, but did he always go up with you to the door?—A. I believe so.

Q. You told me you were many and many times at Mr. Mitford's lodgings.—A. Not many and many times.

Q. We must come to round numbers, were you there twenty, thirty, or forty times?—A. Not thirty nor twenty.

Q. When you went there you generally saw Mr. Mitford, by himself, without his wife?—A. I don't recollect to have seen him ever once by himself, at his house.

Q. Mr. Mitford was repeatedly visiting you at Blackheath, before March?—A. Not before March; I did not reside there then.

Q. Did he not repeatedly visit at your house before that month?—A. Two or three times, I believe.

Q. Was he not in the constant habit of visiting you, at Blackheath or elsewhere?—A. He was occasionally permitted to come.

Q. I believe you very often employed him to copy writings for you?—A. Not to my recollection, not often. Never, as I recollect; not often, certainly.

Q. Did you ever employ him to carry any paragraphs to diurnal papers, for insertion?—A. I have occasionally desired him to offer some articles for insertion.

Q. May I take the liberty of asking you on what subject you wrote? was it love, or religion, what might it be?—A. It was on neither of these.

Q. What! neither love nor religion! politics, perhaps?—A. I don't recollect.

Q. By Lord ELLENBOROUGH.—What was the subject? your recollection *cannot* fail you, because it is a matter so much out of the ordinary course of things?—A. It was on the subject of the affairs of an illustrious personage.

Q. By Lord ELLENBOROUGH.—Speak out, is it the Princess of Wales; or whom else do you mean?

Q. On the subject of the affairs of whom did you write?—A. Of the princess of Wales.

Q. Have all your squibs or crackers been inserted?—A. No.

Q. Can you give a guess, and tell why they have been returned uninserted?—A. I don't know.

Q. Not give a guess, cannot you say to the best of your knowledge?—A. They were thought too strong.

Q. Too libellous, perhaps?—A. I don't know.

Q. Has it ever happened, that some paragraphs have been inserted, a part of which, as originally sent, was struck out? have they been inserted in a mutilated state?—A. One was.

Q. Do you recollect writing to Mitford, and finding fault with him for allowing it to be inserted other than in the state in which it was sent to him?—A. I have a recollection of it.

Q: It was not inserted, to use your own phrase, so strong as you sent it?—A. It was not inserted in the manner in which it was offered.

Q. Did you usually entitle your paragraphs. I mean put a head to them? as for instance, did you ever send a paragraph headed thus? "Nelson when a child."—A. I recollect a letter beginning in that manner.

Q. I ask you, whether you did not both write and send a letter for insertion, bearing that title?—A. Certainly not for insertion.

Q. Whom did you write it to?—A. Mr. Mitford.

The letter was here handed to the witness.

Q. It is in your hand-writing?—A. Yes.

Q. You wrote another, I believe, entitled "A Curious Fact?"

A. I have no recollection of it.

Mr. ALLEY.—I will refresh your memory about it.

Lord ELLENBOROUGH.—Perhaps the catch words at the beginning are not sufficient to recall it to the witness's mind. If you read more perhaps she would remember.

The paper headed "A Curious Fact," was handed to the witness.

Q. Is not that your hand-writing?—A. It is.

Q. Is not the envelope "To Mr. Mitford," your hand-writing?

A. It is.

Q. By Lord ELLENBOROUGH.—Are these two addressed to Mr. Mitford?

Mr. ALLEY.—Yes, my Lord.

A series of letters, from No. I. to XI. inclusive, was here put in, and admitted to be in the hand-writing of Lady Perceval.—Amongst them was, "When Nelson was a Child," "A Curious Fact;" two addressed to Mr. Phipps, one of them purporting to be written by Lady Anne Hamilton, thanking him for the offer of his paper, in supporting the cause of the Princess of Wales, and one directed to Mrs. Mitford. At a subsequent period of the trial, several of them were read, and will be found in their proper places.

Lord ELLENBOROUGH.—I don't know the contents of any

of these letters; but I think it right to inform the witness, that she need not acknowledge them to be hers if she does not please. According to the suggestion that has been thrown out, they are libellous; and, if so, by admitting them, she may be criminating herself by a string of libels.

Mr. HOLT.—I am not aware of any thing libellous.

Lord ELLENBOROUGH.—Perhaps not, Sir; but you need not make a speech on it. The witness may demur to any question respecting her hand-writing; but, if she answers, she must answer truly.

Q. Will you be so good, since I can find no date to this letter (No. XI. directed to Mrs. Mitford), to tell me when you wrote it? Was it before, or after the publication of those libels?—A. It was after the publication of the letters on the 4th of April.

Q. I believe it was on the very next day you wrote it?—A. I do not know.

Q. A day or two afterwards?—A. It was in the next week, certainly.

Q. You say, that in consequence of a letter you sent to Mr. Phipps, he waited on you at Blackheath, on Sunday the 4th of April?—A. Yes.

Q. When he was introduced to you, I believe your son was in the room with you?—A. My son announced Mr. Phipps.

Q. Then he came into the room with him?—A. I believe he did.

Q. You desired him to come down to make a *rectification*?—A. I think an *explanation* of what I could not understand in his letter.

Q. *Rectification* was the word in your letter?—A. Whichever you please.

Q. Did your son continue in the room all the time Mr. Phipps was there?—A. He might have gone out for a few minutes; but the best part, indeed almost the whole time, he was in the room.

Q. Do you recollect Mr. Phipps complaining that he was very ill-used?—A. I believe he did use some expression of that kind.

Q. Did he not demand, that you should produce Mitford face to face with him, that an explanation might take place?—A. Yes, he did.

Q. Now, Lady Perceval, I ask you, did you not then declare, on your word of honour, to Mr. Phipps, that you had not seen him for a considerable time before?—A. I informed him, that I had seen him on the Friday evening.

Q. Did you not tell Mr. Phipps, that you had not seen him that

day, or the day before?—*A.* I informed him, that I had seen him on Friday, the 2d of April.

Q. That you told me before :—it is not an answer to my question ; and I will have one. I ask you, when Mr. Phipps demanded that Mitford, who was in your house, should be brought face to face with him, for an explanation, did you not declare, that he was not in the house ?—*A.* I did not.

Q. Did you not give him to understand, that you had not lately seen Mitford ; and assign it as a reason, that you knew nothing of the letters published ?—*A.* I did not ; because I informed him that I had seen Mitford on the Friday evening.

Q. Did you tell him, that the man with whom he would come face to face was in your house, and you would be happy to bring them together, to explain ?—*A.* I did not.

Q. Why, I thought you sent to him for the purpose of *rectification, or explanation* ?—*A.* So I did : but Mr. Mitford left the house the moment Mr. Phipps came in.

Q. Could not Mr. Phipps see him ?—*A.* He had a glimpse.

Q. Why then did you not tell him that he was in the house ?—*A.* Because he rushed out of the room, and I knew not where he was gone to.

Q. Now, Lady Perceval, did you not beseech Mr. Phipps not to publish, in his next Sunday paper, the explanation he had received with respect to these letters, such as it was ?—*A.* I requested Mr. Phipps, with reference to Mitford's name and connections, if, consistently with his duty to the public, he could avoid the exposure of Mitford, in so disgraceful a transaction, that he would do so.

Q. Did he not say, that he could not, consistently with his public duty, or his own honour, withhold the particulars ?—*A.* He said he must explain the manner in which he had received them from Mitford.

Q. Did not you, on that, request him only to state, generally, a contradiction, and not to state the particulars ?—*A.* For the reasons I have already assigned, yes.

Q. You had a very benevolent feeling towards Mr. Mitford, at that time.—I hope you sent your son to console him ?—*A.* I was extremely indignant.

Q. But, for all that, you endeavoured to soften the printer ?—*A.* I had a respect for the name of Mitford.

Q. Such a respect, that you would have done the same for any other person of the name ?—*A.* I would for any person of the family.

Q. I believe you desired Mr. Phipps to sit down, and write a contradiction for *other papers*, which he did, though he would not do it for *his own* ?—*A.* I told him, that a contradiction would appear in some of next day's papers.

Q. You requested Mr. Phipps to pen a paragraph?—A. Believing Mr. Phipps to have been imposed on, at that time, I asked him to put that contradiction into whatever form of words was least humiliating to himself.

Q. It was to be put in the other papers. Was it to be put in his own paper, for the next Sunday?—A. He put it in his own way.

Q. Not a contradiction?—A. No; an avowal, a statement of the business.

Q. While your son was absent, did you not draw your chair nearer to Mr. Phipps, and take a very affectionate leave of him?—A. I take an affectionate leave of Mr. Phipps?

Q. Yes! did you not take his hand between yours, and say, "My dear Mr. Phipps, if you will but insert the contradiction as I wish, you will be the saviour of me and my family?"—A. To the best of my recollection, certainly not.

Q. You deny it?—A. Certainly every word of it.

Q. I believe your son is about twenty?—A. Rather younger, he is in his nineteenth year.

Q. Now, attend. Did you not say, that if things went on as you hoped, your son would, in six or seven years, be Chancellor of the Exchequer, and then the printer should have his reward? that another Perceval would be Chancellor of the Exchequer?—A. Certainly not.

Q. When you talked of reward, did you speak of remuneration of a pecuniary kind, or of a place under government?—A. I spoke of no reward whatever.

Q. By Lord ELLENBOROUGH.—Did you say any thing of another Perceval, or of your son being Chancellor of the Exchequer;—A. I heartily wish he may be, but I never expressed such a sentiment.

Mr. ALLEY.—After what has passed, there may be two feelings on that subject.

Q. You held out no promise, then of expectation or reward to Mr. Phipps?—A. I did not.

Q. You have told the gentleman who examined you, that you never intimated a wish that Mr. Mitford should go to a mad-house?—A. I never did.

Q. You know Whitmore House?—A. Yes.

Q. Did you not on, Sunday the 4th of April, after Mr. Phipps left you, endeavour to prevail on Mr. Mitford to go to Warburton's mad-house?—A. No: I did not see him after Mr. Phipps left the room.

Q. Did you at any other time of the day?—A. No, I did not: I never saw him after he left the house.

Q. On the next day, on Monday the 5th of April, you sent Speechley and Hardcastle to Mr. Phipps, the printer?—*A.* I did.

Q. By whose advice did you do it?—*A.* In consequence of a letter I received from Mr. Phipps, late on Sunday night.

Q. Was not the object of your message by them to him, to contradict the letters, in the manner mentioned the day before, for the tranquillity of your mind?—*A.* It was to have an explanation of the letter, which was sent down at eleven o'clock the night before; and to desire that he would come down, and explain that letter.

Q. It was in consequence of that letter, which you received on the Sunday night, and in which Mr. Phipps says:—"that, consistently with his own honour, and his duty to the public, he must give a particular, and not a general statement of the transaction," that Speechley and Hardcastle were sent to him?—*A.* Yes Mr. Phipps added, "unless Mr. Mitford came forward, and avowed his share in the fabrication." The letter is here.

Q. Who might have been with you, besides Speechley and Hardcastle, at the time you agreed to send a message to Mr. Phipps.—By whose advice, in addition, did you act?—*A.* I acted entirely from my own feelings.

Q. You have told me you wrote the letter I hold in my hand, to Mrs. Mitford?—*A.* Yes.

Q. She went down to Blackheath, in consequence?—*A.* She did.

Q. By Lord ELLENBOROUGH.—When was this?—*A.* I think it was on Thursday, the 8th of April.

Q. Did you not endeavour to prevail on Mrs. Mitford, to persuade her husband to go to a mad-house?—*A.* Mrs. Mitford represented, that her husband had been in such an extraordinary state of agitation and violence of temper, that she did not know how to account for it; and said she was fearful to return to him, without being accompanied.

Q. What was your advice on that occasion?—*A.* In consequence of her representations, I suggested the probability, that he might be again disordered—that he might be unwell.

Q. Did you not endeavour at that time, to prevail on her to persuade her husband to go to a mad-house?—*A.* I suggested, whether it would not be better to have some person from Warburton's, in his own house, for the safety of herself and her child.

Q. Was not that suggestion of yours, after she said she would not assist in sending him to St. Luke's, or to Warburton's?—*A.* No.

Q. Did you not suggest the propriety of sending him to St. Luke's, or to Warburton's?—*A.* Certainly not. On the contrary, I advised Mrs. Mitford to have some person from Warburton's, in his own house.

Q. Mrs. Mitford came down on *your* solicitation, therefore, she did not come to make a complaint to you,—you intended to

complain to her,—not she to you?—*A.* I sent for her to explain what her husband's conduct had been.

Q. Do you recollect saying, when you proposed that a man from Warburton's should be in the house, that no restraint should be imposed on Mr. Mitford,—it was only for form's sake?—*A.* No, I said it was for her own safety—certainly not for form's sake.

Q. Before I sit down, as Mr. Phipps is here, I will again ask you, did you not tell him, to this effect, that when your son should be prime minister, his reward should come?—*A.* Certainly not.

Q. You have stated, that one of these letters, though it has the name of Lady Anne Hamilton, is written by you. Had you her permission?—*A.* I had her permission to write that letter.

Q. Did you not desire both Mr. Phipps and Mr. Mitford, when they wrote to you on the subject we have been speaking of, to direct to you under cover to Lady Hamilton?—*A.* Not Mr. Phipps; but I desired Mr. Mitford, upon occasion, to address me, under cover, to Lady Hamilton, when I was in the country.

Re-examined by Mr. LAWS,

Q. My Learned Friend wishes to know, when you sent the letter No. VIII. (beginning "when Nelson was a child,") to Mr. Mitford?—*A.* 2d December ¶ 1812.

Q. When was the letter about the rectification sent to Mr. Phipps?—*A.* It was in April last.

Q. You said Mr. Mitford had been disordered in his mind?—*A.* He had been extremely unwell; and it was conceived that his mind was not in a perfect state.

Q. How long was that previous to the paragraphs in *The News* of April 4th?—*A.* It was in January, 1812. It was more than a year before,—a year and a quarter.

Q. And he was then confined on that account?—*A.* He was then at Warburton's.

Q. Was it by the direction of his relations?—*A.* It was.

Q. By Lord ELLENBOROUGH.—Had you known him before he went there?—*A.* I had seen him only two or three times previous to his being placed there.

Q. Which did you know his wife or him, first?—*A.* Mrs. Mitford.

Q. What was the occasion of your first introduction to Mr. Mitford?—*A.* Mrs. Mitford introduced her husband.

Q. For what purpose?—*A.* With a view to befriend him, and to enable him to support his wife and family.

Q. Whatever might have been Mr. Mitford's conduct, when he came down to Blackbeath, after these letters were published, did he appear in a deranged state of mind?—*A.* Not at all on the 4th of April.

Q. Then it was some time after these paragraphs were published, that Mrs. Mitford came and related to you his state of mind?

A. Yes,—she stated to me the violence of his temper.

Q. When you saw Mr. Phipps, did you ask him how he came, and by whose directions, to publish these letters?—**A.** I did.

Q. By whose directions did he tell you he had done it?—**A.** He informed me that Mitford had delivered these letters to him.

Q. Was it in consequence of that, that you made the request to Mr. Phipps to insert a general explanation?—**A.** I asked Mr. Phipps, in consequence of his answer, whether he was sure that it was Mr. Mitford who delivered these papers to him, or any one assuming his name.

Q. What did he tell you?—**A.** He assured me it was Mitford; the gentleman whom he had passed in going out of the house.

Q. What house did he allude to?—**A.** My house at Blackheath.

LORD ELLENBOROUGH—These are admitted facts,—both stories are, that he delivered the letters. The question is, whether he copied them or not, as he has sworn.

MR. E. LAWS.—My reason for asking these questions is, to shew that Mr. Phipps had seen the Defendant at the house, and thus to account for Lady Perceval's not stating that he was there.

Q. Was it at that time you said you had not seen Mr. Mitford since Friday?—**A.** I never used the expression, that I had not seen him since Friday.

Q. Then you used the expression, that you had seen him on Friday?—**A.** Yes.

Q. And you did not mention to him that you had seen him on Sunday?—**A.** I did not then.

Q. Was not the reason because Mr. Phipps said he had seen Mitford at your house on that day?—**A.** Exactly so.

Q. I understood you to say, that Mitford came to your house, on the Sunday, before Mr. Phipps's arrival, and that Mr. Phipps came after?—**A.** Yes.

Q. Were they ever together in the parlour of your house?—

A. Mitford left the parlour very abruptly, on hearing Mr. Phipps was arrived before he came in.

Q. I think you said you never used Lady Anne Hamilton's name without her leave?—**A.** Yes.

Q. And that you had her leave for writing that particular note in her name?—**A.** Yes, that letter thanking Mr. Phipps for the offer of his columns.

LORD ELLENBOROUGH.—When was it ?

MR. LAWS.—It is the letter No. I. given in evidence.

LORD ELLENBOROUGH.—Yes, but when was that letter written ?

LADY PERCEVAL.—I think the 21st of March.

Q. Now there is a letter mentioned, commencing, " Nelson when a child," was that sent for insertion in any paper ?—A. Certainly not, it was a private letter to Mr. Mitford.

Q. Was there any more than one paragraph sent by your direction, by Mr. Mitford, to *The News* ?—A. Certainly not, not any to *The News*.

Q. Was it to *The Star* newspaper that the other paragraph was altered, was sent ?—A. Yes, to *The Star*.

Q. By LORD ELLENBOROUGH.—When was it returned ?—Indeed I do not know.

Q. By LORD ELLENBOROUGH.—How recently before the month of March ?—A. I believe it might be in the month of February.

Q. You may remember a paragraph relative to a paper, containing a copy of the Duchess of Brunswick's will, what newspaper had Mr. Mitford liberty to publish it in ?—A. He had the liberty of inserting it in any paper he chose, or thought proper.

Q. By LORD ELLENBOROUGH.—Of inserting any letters you delivered to him, or any letters he chose ?—A. The particular articles I gave him.

Q. When you went to Mr. Donovan's house, for whom did you inquire ?—A. I inquired for Mr. Mitford generally ; I may have inquired for Mrs. Mitford, or for both.

Q. When you went there, did you go alone ?—A. I went alone generally, I believe always.

Q. What was your occasion of calling there, when you did go ?—A. I called to see Mrs. Mitford generally, I felt interested in their well doing, and that was the subject of conversation amongst others.

Q. Did you make any endeavour to obtain for Mr. Mitford any situation of emolument ?—A. I did use every opportunity I had to enable him to provide honourably for his family.

Q. In particular did you use any endeavours to get him any situation in the Navy Pay Office ?—A. No ; I introduced him to two gentlemen who were setting up a Navy Agency concern.

Q. Was it sometimes the subject of your calling at Mr. Donovan's ?—A. Very often.

Q. And of writing to Mr. Mitford?—**A.** I wrote to him on that subject and on others.

Examined by Lord ELLENBOROUGH.

Q. Can you state in how many instances you authorized him to insert paragraphs?—**A.** I don't know, my lord; but he never was authorized to use my name.

Q. Your name was not to appear; it was not to be put forward; but he was to do the act you put him upon. He, concealing your name, was to put in the strong paragraphs?—**A.** He was directed, from time to time, my lord, to insert my sentiments on the subject.

Q. You wrote a letter to Mr. Phipps, in the name of Lady Anne Hamilton?—**A.** I had Lady Anne Hamilton's leave, my lord, to write a note, in her name, in answer to an offer which Mr. Phipps had made of his columns.

Q. Through whose procurement had he made that offer?—**A.** I believe it was of his own movement, my lord.

Q. To whom did he write?—**A.** To Lady Anne Hamilton, my lord.

Q. Why did he write to her?—**A.** He can best answer that, my lord.

Q. She had not applied to him?—**A.** Certainly not, my lord.

Q. But why did you get her leave to write?—**A.** It was an immaterial note; it was no matter who wrote it, my lord.

Q. The more immaterial, the more necessary to write in your own name, and not in that of another person?—**A.** I don't know.

Q. How came you to make use of her name?—**A.** It was accidental, my lord.

Q. Yes; it was an accident that never took place before; very few people here, I believe, have ever heard of such a one. On the 4th of April you saw the paper with these forged letters, and immediately sent up Speechley to state to Phipps, that you knew nothing of them.—How came you to know that he suspected you then?—**A.** Because, my lord, he wrote me a note, on the morning of the 4th, with his paper.

Q. Why did he write to you?—**A.** He then addressed me, my lord, to use his own phrase, unauthorized.

Q. You peremptorily deny, when Mr. Phipps came down, that any of that conversation, or any of those civilities, passed between you, which were stated in the questions put to you—as, that you took him by the hand, and said, "My dear Phipps, you will be the Saviour of myself and family?"—**A.** I do, my lord.

Q. Did not Lady Anne Hamilton desire you to answer that letter in her name?—**A.** Yes, my lord.

Q. Then how came you to say, that "you had her leave:"

that looked as if you had asked leave from her.—*A.* I wrote by her desire, my lord.

Then I will put down, that you wrote by Lady Anne Hamilton's *leave and desire*.

Mr. Holt.—May I request your lordship to put a question to Lady Perceval?

Lord Ellenborough.—If it be material.

Mr. Holt.—Will your lordship have the goodness to ask, whether she did not use the words, “*Saviour of his family*,” with reference to Mr. Mitford?

Lord Ellenborough.—Why she has denied using the words; and I cannot suggest a qualification of a direct contradiction.—It would be making the court a party to subornation of perjury; I cannot put such a question.

Mr. John Hardcastle examined by Mr. W. Ray.

Q. Had you, on the 4th of April last, occasion to call on the Defendant, Mitford, on any business, no matter what?—*A.* I had.

Q. Before you waited on him that morning, had you seen *The News*?—*A.* I had.

Q. Had you read in it the letters which have been alluded to?—*A.* I had, sir.

Q. Did you mention them to the Defendant?—*A.* I did, sir.

Q. On your naming them to him, what remark did he make?—

A. He seemed surprised, and desired me to relate their purport.

Q. You did so?—*A.* I believe I did.

Q. You afterwards went with him to Lady Perceval's house, Curzon-street?—*A.* I did.

Q. When there, had you any conversation with him on the subject of *The News*?—*A.* Not in Curzon-street.

Q. Where did you go from Curzon-street?—*A.* To Blackheath.

Q. On your arrival at Blackheath, where were you introduced?—*A.* To Mr. Perceval's room—Lady Perceval was engaged.

Q. Whom did you find there?—*A.* Mr. Speechley went with us: there were also Mr. Thomas Speechley and Mr. Perceval.

Q. About what hour of the day was it?—*A.* About four.

Q. Lady Perceval shortly after came into the room?—*A.* She did.

Q. On her coming into the room, what passed between her and the Defendant?—*A.* She peremptorily asked him, what he knew of the contents of the paper.

Q. By Lord ELLENBOROUGH.—Did she mention *The News*?
—A. In *The News* of that morning, my lord.

Q. Had she any papers in her hand?—A. A letter from Mr. Phipps.

Q. You saw it?—A. Yes.

Q. Had she any other paper in her hand?—A. I cannot recollect.

Q. What reply did Defendant make to her, when she asked that question?—A. He denied all knowledge of them, positively and repeatedly.

Q. Do you remember the expression he made use of, when he denied them?—A. I saw the fellow, I never saw him but twice in my life.

Q. Had any name been mentioned in conversation, between Lady Perceval and Mr. Mitford, to which that expression applied?—A. Mr. Phipps's name had been mentioned.

Q. By Lord ELLENBOROUGH.—Mentioned just before?—A. It had, my lord.

Q. What did the Defendant afterwards say?—A. That he wished to go to town to contradict the letters.

Q. Did he say to whom he wished to go?—A. To Mr. Phipps, to contradict the letters.

Q. By Lord ELLENBOROUGH?—What letters?—A. Those that had appeared in *The News*, my lord.

Q. By Lord ELLENBOROUGH.—In what particular did he say he wished to contradict them?—A. He spoke generally, my lord.

Q. He did not say in what particular, then, he only said he wished to go to town to contradict them?—A. Yes.

Q. When he said that, what did Lady Perceval say?—A. She said, that Mr. Phipps was coming down, and it was useless for him to go to town, as they would pass on the road.

Q. You say it was then about four o'clock; did she say at what hour she expected Mr. Phipps?—A. It was about four when we went down, this was about a quarter before five.

Q. Did she state a long or a short time, before she expected Mr. Phipps down?—A. She said she expected him about five.

Q. What did Defendant do, or say? A. He seemed a good deal agitated, and wished still to go.

Q. Did he give any reason why Phipps would not be there that evening?—A. He said that Mr. Phipps could not go down, on account of publishing his morning paper.

Q. By Lord ELLENBOROUGH.—Is he connected in another publication, besides the Sunday paper?—A. No, my lord; but he publishes the same paper to send into the country on Monday.

Q. Mr. Perceval was not in the room at the conclusion of their conversation?—A. No.

Q. Did he afterwards return?—A. He returned, and announced Mr. Phipps.

Q. What did Defendant do when Mr. Phipps's name was announced?—A. He passed hastily by Mr. Perceval, and left the house.

Q. You saw no more of him on that day?—A. I did not.

Q. You were sent repeatedly afterwards to seek him, by Lady Perceval, and did not meet him?—A. I did not.

Cross-examined by Mr. ALLEY.

Q. Did you live in Lady Perceval's house?—A. No, sir.

Q. What are you—and how did you happen to be there?—A. I belong to the Dock-yard at Woolwich.

Q. Are you a private friend of Lady Perceval?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. You were at her house on the Monday as well as the Sunday?—A. I was.

Q. Why Monday was not a holiday?—A. I had leave, sir.

Q. She does not communicate many of her secrets to you,—you did not know that these publications were going on?—A. No, sir.

Q. You are a casual visitor?—A. I went there, sometimes.

Q. You did not know any thing of these letters?—A. I knew nothing of the transaction.

Q. Did you remain in the room after Mr. Phipps went down to Blackheath, on the Sunday?—A. I did not.

Q. Mitford remained in the house, did he not?—A. Not to my knowledge.

Q. Did you see him at Blackheath on that day?—A. I did not.

Q. What time did Mr. Phipps stay there?—A. I don't know.

Q. Mr. Phipps wrote a letter the next day to Lady Perceval?—A. Not the next day.

Questioned by Lord ELLENBOROUGH.

Q. What is your situation in the dock-yard?—A. I am a clerk.

Q. Are you frequently at Lady Perceval's?—A. I am there, perhaps once or twice in a fortnight.

Q. Are you acquainted with any particular person in the family, or do you go to Lady Perceval?—A. To Lord and Lady Perceval both.

Mr. Ralph Speechley examined by Mr. HOLT.

Q. You are the nephew of a lady who resides with Lady Perceval?—A. Yes.

Q. And you reside yourself in the family?—A. I do.

Q. Were you in Mr. Perceval's room, in her ladyship's house, at Blackheath, on the 4th of April?—A. Yes.

Q. Do you recollect the Defendant coming into that room?—A. Yes.

Q. With whom?—A. With Mr. Hardcastle and Mr. Perceval.

Q. Whilst you were in the room together, did Lady Perceval come in?—A. She did, Sir.

Q. Be so good as to relate, when she came into the room, what she said or did?—A. She came in with *The News* of that day, and Mr. Phipps's letter, which she had received with it, in her hand; and she asked Mr. Mitford if he knew any thing of the letters published in *The News* of that day.

Q. What did he say?—A. He declared positively that he did not.

Q. Did he say that once or twice, or how many times?—A. He said it frequently.

Q. Did Lady Perceval speak to him, or press him on this answer?—A. She did.

Q. What were his answers?—A. I remember him saying:—"D-mn the fellow, I never saw him but twice in my life.

Q. To whom was that expression applied?—A. I understood to Mr. Phipps.

Q. Are you sure he denied repeatedly the knowledge of the letters?—A. Quite sure.

Q. Did Lady Perceval mention the name of Mr. Phipps?—A. She gave him the letter she had received with the paper.

Q. But did she say any one thing about expecting Mr. Phipps?—A. She said she expected him at five o'clock.

Q. What did he say?—A. That he knew he could not come, as he would be busy preparing his Monday's publication.

Q. Did you observe any thing particular in his conduct?—A. He was anxious to get away, to go to town to meet Mr. Phipps.

Q. Did Mr. Phipps arrive, or was his name announced, before he went?—A. That I cannot tell; for I went with Mr. Perceval to meet Mr. Phipps at the gate of the court-yard.

Q. By Lord ELLENBOROUGH.—You say at the gate of the court-yard, is it some distance from the room?—A. Yes, my lord.

Q. By Lord ELLENBOROUGH.—What distance is it from the house?—A. About fifty yards from the door.

Q. By Lord ELLENBOROUGH.—What door?—A. The door leading into the house.

Q. When did you next see Defendant?—A. I walked with Mr. Phipps towards the door leading to the house, and met Mr. Mitford.

Q. How was he coming out?—A. Rather in a brisk manner.

Q. Did he meet Mr. Phipps?—A. Yes, in the passage leading from the house to the court-yard.

Q. Where was Mr. Perceval then ?—A. I believe in the room with Lady Perceval.—He ran forward to announce Mr. Phipps.

Q. When the Defendant and Mr. Phipps met, did you observe anything particular ?—A. They shook hands together, and both retired back into the yard.

Q. What became of Mitford ?—A. He absconded. We could not find him afterwards.

Q. Did Lady Perceval send you the next morning to town ?—A. Yes, she did.

Q. On the 7th of April, did Lady Perceval send you to Mitford's lodging,—on Wednesday, the 7th ?—A. Yes.

Q. Who went along with you ?—A. Mr. Perceval.

Q. Did you seek for Mitford at his lodging ?—A. Yes, frequently,—two or three times.

Q. How often did you apply at the door of his lodging ? A. Two or three times.

Q. Were you admitted, or did you get into the lodging ?—A. No, we did not.

Q. Did you see Mr. Mitford ?—A. Yes, we saw him at the window ; we went to a public-house opposite and saw him.

Q. Why did you go to the public-house opposite ?—A. Because we had reason to think he was in the house, though denied.

Q. After you were denied admittance, did you observe him at the window ?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. How soon after you had called ?—A. A quarter of an hour.

Q. Had you kept your eye on the door of the house, so as to see that he was not admitted between the time of applying and of seeing him ?—A. Yes.

Q. What time did you go to the house ?—A. About seven in the evening.

Q. Did you gain admission then ?—A. Yes.

Q. Did you see Mitford ?—A. Yes.

Q. Now state what you observed, and all that passed, when you saw him ?—A. When I went into the room where his wife was sitting, she said he was lying on his bed, in the next room ; I went in and saw him.—He appeared very much distressed ; and said, he hoped we came as his friends—I told him there was no doubt of that ; and all Lady Perceval required of him, was to give a candid account of what he knew of these forged letters.

Q. What did he reply to that ?—A. He told me that his reason for doing it—

Q. You say you found him in a distressed state—did he say anything of his state or character ?—A. He said, he had committed himself and his reputation.

Q. Anything else on that head :—you said, all Lady Perceval asked of him, was to give an explanation of these forged letters :—

did you say anything of his going down with you?—*A.* Yes; I asked him would he go down with us.

Q. What did he say upon that?—*A.* He said he could not bear the interview—and he used this expression, that as he had been so long accustomed to her kindness, he could not bear her frowns.

Q. Did you speak to him about the documents in *The News*—about the forged papers, as you called them?—*A.* I asked him, what could have been his reason for imposing those letters on the Editor of *The News*.

Q. What did he say to that?—*A.* He told me he saw his family in great distress, and he could not resist a bribe.

Q. By Lord ELLENBOROUGH.—Did he say whom he had the bribe from?—*A.* Yes, my lord.

Lord ELLENBOROUGH.—O! we shall hear that presently.

Q. What did you say?—*A.* I asked him who offered him the bribe; he said it was Colonel Bloomfield.

Q. Did he say anything else?—*A.* He said he should never rise again from his bed—he was in great distress.

Q. By Lord ELLENBOROUGH.—Who was present with you?—*A.* Mr. Perceval, my lord.

Q. Did he say anything else?—*A.* He jumped up from his bed, and with a forcible expression, said, “D-mn them all, I will publish their names.”

Q. By Lord ELLENBOROUGH.—Did he say whom he meant by them all?—*A.* No, my lord.

Q. What did you observe next?—*A.* After a great deal of entreaty, he said, he would go down with us, and he went into the next room to arrange his dress.

Q. Was there a looking-glass there?—*A.* Yes.

Q. Did he say anything on going up to it?—*A.* He turned round to me, and said, “Don’t I look horrible?—Have I any other appearance than that of a villain?”

Q. Did he, at last, consent to go down with you to Blackheath?—*A.* Yes, he did.

Q. Did you and Mr. Perceval accompany him to Blackheath?—*A.* Yes; both of us.

Q. At what time of night did you arrive?—*A.* About eleven o’clock, I believe.

Q. Now where did he go when he went down?—*A.* Into the room occupied by Mr. Perceval as his study.

Q. Did he say anything of what he would do that night or next morning?—*A.* He frequently asked what time we thought

Lady Perceval would be at home ; and told me he wished Lady Perceval would leave him till the morning, and then he would tell all.

Q. What time of night did you leave him ?—A. We left him about four or five the next morning. He lay down on a bed in the next room.

Q. Were you sitting up watching him ?—A. We sat in the next room, the door of which opened into that where he was.

Q. Did you see him next morning ?—A. No, we did not ; we lay down about five or six o'clock, and when we awoke we found he was gone ; and we could not find him.

Q. What hour was it in the morning when you made the search ?—A. About seven o'clock, as near as I recollect.

Q. At the time you searched for the Defendant, were the doors of the house open ?—A. Yes, they were.

Q. Did Lady Perceval direct you to go next morning to London, to look for Defendant ?—A. Yes.

Q. Did you go ?—A. I did.

Q. Did you see him ?—A. The man told me he was not at home ; and I waited till I saw him.

Q. By LORD ELLENBOROUGH.—What time was it ?—A. About five in the evening, my lord.

Q. Did you ask him to go to Blackheath again ?—A. I did ; he said no, he would not go.

Q. What reason did he give for his refusal ?—A. He gave no one.

Q. Well, what else ?—A. I asked had he seen Lady Perceval, he said, " Yes ; we have settled it all ;" although I knew he had not seen her.

Cross-examined by Mr. CURWOOD.

Q. You are introduced as the nephew of a lady in the house.—What are you yourself ?—A. I am waiting for an opportunity to go abroad.—I have been abroad before.

Q. Where do you live ?—A. At Lady Perceval's.

Q. Are you supported by Lady Perceval ?—A. Yes, I am.

Q. You are dependent on her bounty ?—A. Yes.

Q. By LORD ELLENBOROUGH.—How long ?—A. Since I returned, in September, twelvemonth.

Q. Have you lived continually in the house ?—A. Not continually.

Q. How long ?—A. Since March last.

Q. By LORD ELLENBOROUGH.—What was your situation abroad ?—A. I was in a merchant's counting-house at Teneriffe.

Q. Did it ever happen to you to be sent by Lady Perceval with any of these paragraphs to newspapers?—A. No, Sir.

Q. Have you ever copied any of them?—A. I don't think I have.

Q. You don't think—why it is a remarkable circumstance—you must know it.—Have you, I ask, ever copied what you knew was intended for publication?—A. I have.

Q. Why did you not say so at once, Sir.—How many times have you done it?—A. Not more than once.

Q. Does it happen to be known by you, that Mr. Mitford was frequently employed by Lady Perceval in writing?—A. No, I have heard her say—

Mr. Holt.—I object to that question.

Lord ELLENBOROUGH.—What is your objection?

Mr. Holt made no answer.

Q. Have you not seen Mr. Mitford employed in copying articles?—A. I have not.

Q. Have you not seen him and Lady Perceval together, fabricating paragraphs?—A. No, I have not.

Q. Have you not seen them writing together?—A. He may have written in her presence.

Q. By Lord ELLENBOROUGH.—And he may not also—that is no answer.—Has he ever, to your knowledge, been writing in Lady Perceval's presence?—A. Perhaps letters to his friends.

Q. By Lord ELLENBOROUGH—No perhaps.—Have you ever seen him writing in her presence?—A. I have.

Q. On the 4th of April were you present when Mr. Phipps came in?—A. I was not.—When Mr. Phipps came into the door, I turned back into the yard.

Q. When, before that day, had you seen Mr. Mitford there?—A. On the Friday evening.

Q. This being on the Sunday?—A. Yes.

Q. When Phipps came in, you say, he met Mitford?—A. Yes; they shook hands, went into the yard together*, and Phipps afterwards went into the house.

Q. Were you present at the interview?—A. I was not.

Q. Mr. Phipps having left the house, you were, on the next

* In the most solemn manner I deny the assertion of this witness, respecting my going with Mitford into the yard. We met in a narrow passage; and he ran from me like a man who had been hidden to keep out of my sight.—Edit.

morning, sent to Mr. Mitford?—*A.* We were—we first called on Mr. Phipps.

Q. You went to Mr. Mitford's lodgings?—*A.* Yes.

Q. You did not see him?—*A.* No.

Q. When did you see him?—*A.* On the Wednesday after.

Q. Be so good as to look at the letter, sir;—were you the bearer of that letter to Mrs. Mitford; there is no post mark on it?—*A.* No; sir; I took no letter.

Q. How long was it before you saw Mrs. Mitford at Perceval-lodge?—*A.* She was there on the Thursday following, the 4th of April.

Q. You were not present?—*A.* I saw Mrs. Mitford; but know nothing of the conversation.

Q. Do you know who else had been there?—*A.* I do not.

Q. Did Mrs. Mitford sleep there that night?—*A.* Yes.

Q. When did she leave Perceval-lodge?—*A.* The next morning.

Q. What time did you arrive on the Thursday night?—*A.* About ten or eleven o'clock.

Q. Do you know of any letter being written for Mrs. Mitford to copy, to be sent to Dr. Warburton?—*A.* I do not.

Q. Was any body there, on Friday morning, not of the family, besides Mrs. Mitford?—*A.* There was a Mr. Grimani, who went up to town with Mrs. Mitford.

Q. Am I to understand you to say, you were not at the consultation respecting sending for a man from Dr. Warburton's house?—*A.* No, I was not.

Q. When you saw Mr. Mitford, did you observe anything in his appearance like a mad-man?—*A.* Nothing, except on the Wednesday, when lying on his bed; he then certainly seemed deranged.

Q. By Lord ELLENBOROUGH.—That was the day he talked of the bribe?—*A.* Yes, my lord.

Q. By Lord ELLENBOROUGH.—Did he tell you how much he received, or with what he was bribed?—*A.* No, my lord.

Mr. John-James Perceval examined by Mr. LAWS.

Q. You are the son of Lord and Lady Perceval?—*A.* Yes, I am.

Q. You reside with them?—*A.* Yes.

Q. You lived with them in March and April last?—*A.* Yes.

Q. Were you in the habit of seeing Mr. Mitford, when he came to the house?—*A.* I was.

Q. Did you see Mr. Mitford on the 31st of March, on the day previous, or the day after?—*A.* No, I did not.

Q. Is it likely you would see him if there?—A. Yes.

Q. Did you see him on the 2d of April, or the Friday?—A. Yes, I did.

Q. When next, after Friday, the 2d of April, did you see him at your father's house?—A. On Sunday, the 4th.

Q. Now, sir, did your mother, after Mitford arrived, come into the room where he was?—A. Yes, she did; on Sunday the 4th.

Q. What was it she first said to Defendant on coming into the room?—A. She brought Mr. Phipps's paper, with the letter she received from him, and said, "Mitford, what have you been about?" He said, "What do you mean?" as if he did not know any thing about it. Then she said, "Look, see, and read;" and gave him the paper. Then he said, "I know nothing of it."

Q. Did he use any particular words, when he said that?—A. Yes; he said, "D-mn the the fellow, I never saw him but twice in my life."

Q. Of whom was he speaking when he said, "the fellow?"—A. Of Mr. Phipps, certainly.

Q. Did he say he would go to Mr. Phipps?—A. Yes; he said he would go to town.

Q. What was your mother's observation on that?—A. He need not go to town, for she had sent for Mr. Phipps, to come down and he would soon be there, as it was near five, at which time she had appointed him.

Q. Did he say anything about Phipps's coming down?—A. He said he could not come, for he was preparing his Monday's publication.

Q. Did Mr. Phipps come?—A. I went out soon after, and met Mr. Phipps at the gate of the yard, the outer gate.

Q. Was any person with you then?—A. Mr. Speechley was with me.

Q. Did you remain with Mr. Speechley there?—A. I went up part of the yard with Mr. Speechley and Mr. Phipps, and then ran on to announce Mr. Phipps.

Q. Did you see Mr. Mitford then?—A. When I came into the room, he was there.

Q. Did Mitford stop till Phipps came into the room?—A. No; as soon as he heard he had arrived, he rushed past me, and went out of the house.

Q. When did you see Phipps afterwards?—A. I saw him afterwards in the room, just as he was going into the room.

Q. Had the Defendant, Mitford, got out of your sight before Phipps came into the room?—A. Yes, he had.

Q. Did Mitford leave the room in haste?—A. He did; he seemed very much flurried, and even left his stick behind him.

Q. Did he take leave in the ordinary way?—A. No; he did not take leave of me or my mother.

Q. Did you go next day, by desire of your mother, to Mr. Mitford's house?—A. Yes, I did.

Q. For what purpose?—A. To learn what he knew of those forged letters.

Q. Did you frequently, during that day, make inquiries for him?—A. Yes, we did.

Q. Were they ineffectual?—A. Yes; the landlord said he was not at home, and we did not see him during the whole of that day.

Q. Did you repeat your visit to Defendant's house, on Wednesday the 7th, with Speechley?—A. Yes, I did.

Q. What was the answer?—A. That he was not at home; at least, for the first two or three visits.

Q. When and how did you see him on Wednesday?—A. We suspected that he was at home; we watched and saw him come to the window soon after we called.

Q. Were you at length admitted, towards night, to Mitford's presence?—A. We were.

Q. Was he then up, or on his bed?—A. On his bed.

Q. How did Mr. Mitford, on seeing you in that situation, first address you?—A. He said, "I am happy to see you—I hope you are come to comfort me."

Q. Did he speak about his character?—A. Yes; he said he was a lost man, and seemed sadly distressed.

Q. Was it then proposed to him to go to your mother's at Blackheath?—A. Yes.

Q. What did he say to that?—A. He said, she was too good—he did not seem to like to come.

Q. Did he say anything of bearing the interview?—A. He said he could not bear the interview—that was the expression.

Q. Did he say anything about her frowns?—A. Yes; as he was so long accustomed to her kindness he could not bear her frowns.

Q. Did you hear Speechley ask any thing about the forged papers?—A. Yes; Speechley asked what was his reason for imposing forged documents on the Editor of *The News*?

Q. Now, slowly and deliberately, tell my lord, what he said to that?—A. He said, he saw his wife and children starving, and he could not refuse a bribe.

Q. Did he mention who offered the bribe?—A. Yes; he mentioned Colonel Bloomfield.

Q. Did he say anything about publishing names?—A. He said, "D—n them, I will publish all their names."

Q. Did he mention any names?—A. No, he did not.

Q. Did he mention any person but Col. Bloomfield, to whom the expression could apply?—A. No, he did not.

Q. By Lord ELLENBOROUGH.—Did he mention what the bribe was, or when it was offered?—A. No, my Lord, he did not.

Q. Were you present when he went to an adjoining room to a looking glass?—A. Yes, I was.

Q. Had he, at that time consented to go to Blackheath?—A. Yes, with much entreaty.

Q. Did you hear him say any thing, when looking at the glass?—A. No, I don't recollect.

Q. Did he ultimately go to your father's house at Blackheath?—A. Yes, he did.

Q. At what time did he arrive there?—A. Between 11 and 12 o'clock at night.

Q. Did he see your mother, that night?—A. No.

Q. Did he go to bed?—A. He lay down on my bed in the next room. He asked my leave, and I consented.

Q. What time was this?—A. About one o'clock in the morning.

Q. Was it by his own consent, or your persuasion, that he sat up?—A. By his own consent; at length he said he was tired.

Q. Did you see him the next morning?—A. No, I did not.

Q. Do you know what became of him? A. No, I do not.

Q. At what time were you up next morning?—A. Between six and seven. I did not pull off all my clothes; I lay down on the sofa.

Q. Why did you lie on the sofa?—A. Because he was in my bed.

Q. But was there not another bed that you might go to?—A. Yes, there was; but I thought I would stop for fear he should go away.

Q. You saw nothing of him afterwards?—A. No.

Cross examined by Mr. ALLEY.

Q. You say you were at Perceval-lodge, when Mr. Phipps came there on Sunday?—A. Yes.

Q. And when Speechley and the other man were sent to town, to Mr. Mitford, on Monday?—A. I was.

Q. Do you recollect a letter, written by your mother to Mrs. Mitford, requesting her appearance at Blackheath?—A. No, I do not.

Q. Were you at home on Wednesday the 7th of April?—A. No, I was not.

Q. Were you there when Mrs. Mitford came in?—A. I do not know whether I was there, when she arrived, but I recollect her being there.

Q. On the Thursday or Friday?—A. Yes.

Q. Do you recollect a proposition, made by your mother, to send Mr. Mitford to the mad-house?—A. Yes.

Q. There was then a proposition made to Mrs. Mitford to send him to the mad-house?—A. Yes*.

Q. It was first proposed to send him to St. Luke's, and afterwards to Hoxton?—A. Never to St. Luke's, but to Hoxton.

Q. I believe she objected to it, and said, Mr. Mitford would be angry if she agreed to it?—A. She objected.

Q. It was at last agreed that a keeper should be sent for, from Dr. Warburton's, and that Mr. Mitford should be in nominal custody?—A. Yes, to prevent his doing any harm.

Q. Do you recollect any person in Court, whom you saw there at the time?—A. No.

Q. Don't you see any person in Court, who wrote a letter for Mrs. Mitford to copy?—A. No.

Q. Was it not proposed to send Mr. Mitford to the mad-house,—was not Mrs. Mitford asked to write a letter to Dr. Warburton, and did she not say she could not write the letter, and that some person must write it for her to copy?—A. I don't know.

Q. Do you not know, from your mother, that a letter was written for Mrs. Mitford to copy?—A. Not as I recollect.

Q. Who was there, besides yourself, your mother, and Mrs. Mitford?—A. Mr. Speechley and two ladies.

Q. Was there no other gentleman?—it is a particular thing.—A. I do not recollect.

Q. Did not your mother request a gentleman who was present, to write a letter for Mrs. Mitford to copy?—A. I do not know.

Q. Did you not hear that it was intended to place Mr. Mitford in nominal custody?—A. Yes, so far as to prevent him from doing any harm.

The case for the Prosecutor closed here.—Mr. CUNWOOD observing, that they ought to have called Mr. Phipps; a letter said to have been written by him having been put in.

* Vide Speechley's and Lady Perceval's contradictory evidence on this point. The former denied being present at this meeting, and the latter asserted that no such proposition as sending Mitford to Hoxton mad-house was ever made by her.

Mr. ALLEY.—“ Mr. Perceval, you will be good enough to withdraw.” [The young gentleman had seated himself beside the attorney for the prosecution.]

This request of Mr. ALLEY, drew forth some marks of disapprobation from Messrs. HOLT and LAWS, but the propriety of the course pursued by the Defendant's Counsel was acknowledged by

Lord ELLENBOROUGH, who said—“ It is much better for Mr. Perceval to withdraw; it may prevent him *from hearing some unpleasant observations*, and will leave the advocate more at liberty to perform his duty.”

Mr. ALLEY.—“ That is exactly my motive for wishing Mr. Perceval to leave the Court. It is evident he was purposely placed in his present situation, to embarrass me.”

DEFENCE.

Mr. ALLEY—Although I wish to avoid using one word of unnecessary severity in this case, yet I am afraid, in the discharge of my professional duty, I shall be obliged to make some observations, which I should rather the son of Lady Perceval did not hear; this, and this only, was my reason for calling on him to withdraw.

Gentlemen, I was about to state that I felt, and I do most unfeignedly feel, the deepest regret, that the task of defending Mr. Mitford has fallen to me. I should have been extremely well pleased, if I had, in the present instance, the assistance of my learned Friend (Mr. Topping) within the bar, who is leading Counsel in another case, growing out of this, but, unhappily, it was not in the defendant's power to avail himself of the legal talents possessed by my learned Friend. Every person must be aware of the principle of humanity and

kindness towards the distressed, which pervades the members of the legal profession, and which always incites them to step forward in defence of the unfortunate; but, you know, from the rank held by my learned Friend, it was necessary that a license should be obtained before he could appear for the defendant, and that requires a sum of money greatly beyond the present means of Mr. Mitford to advance. Under these circumstances the duty of conducting the defence has devolved upon me.

Gentlemen, I have been much surprised at the manner in which the learned Counsel for the prosecution has been instructed to state his case to you. I was surprised when he was stating a criminal offence against the defendant, to hear him assert, that he was driven from his family, and sheltered in the house of Mrs., I should say, of Viscountess Perceval.

I regret he made use of the expression and introduced it in the manner he has done,—because it was neither generous or just,—because it was not called for by the necessity of the case. I was also sorry to hear him eulogise, in such flattering terms, the situation in life which Lady Perceval fills. This was also unnecessary. With the rank of the parties what have we to do? Well, however, has the learned Gentlemen said, and in this I agree with him, that it is *not for justice* Viscountess Perceval appears here to-day, but to protect her character from obloquy; and in that attempt, you will presently see, she has most completely failed.

Gentlemen, the learned Counsel spoke of three kinds of evidence: and the sort of proof which he adverted to, may do very well in his opinion, but we are not bound to take his definition. There is something more than he has stated, necessary to justify a conviction of a defendant: it must be plainly seen, that the witnesses giving

their evidence are *honest* witnesses, and not partakers in the guilt of those they accuse; or they must be confirmed, as dishonest witnesses require. And here permit me to observe, 'tis not the powerful influence of a powerful accuser—'tis not the popular abhorrence of a crime—nor yet the injurious consequences resulting from the perpetration of an offence, that can at this day authorise the infliction of the law. In this happy land, happy—because 'tis free, and free—because the law is honestly and impartially administered to the people, all is definite and just; to every crime its correspondent punishment is attached, and ere the humblest individual can be hurt in his person or his property, legal guilt must be ascertained by *legal* and by *honest* proof. I use these words advisedly, and in contradistinction to each other; for we may have proof that is legal, and yet by no means honest. We know, that in our criminal courts, a common highwayman is admitted as evidence against the person whom he has assisted in committing depredations: so is the common burglar permitted to appear against his partners in iniquity; so have the witnesses to-day been allowed to come forward, but whether they are all *honest witnesses* the sequel must decide. This, however, I will venture to say, that *too much integrity* will not be found in the conduct of Viscountess Perceval.

Gentlemen, I shall now proceed to call your minds to the fact, as it is charged in the indictment, and to the circumstance from whence the affidavit made by Mr. Mitford originated. You have been told, that Mr. Phipps refused to contradict, in the manner desired by Lady Perceval, certain paragraphs which appeared in his journal on the 4th of April, in the last year; and, when he found that such a statement, as he thought the occasion

demanded, was not drawn up, he felt it a duty, owing both to himself and to the public, to give to the world a narrative of what had passed between him and Lady Perceval, and to publish, in corroboration of that statement, several letters, copies of which I shall lay before you. And why, I will ask, did Mr. Phipps do this? Was it from any unworthy design? Was it with any sinister view? Certainly it was not; but he felt his honour, his character, his integrity assailed, and he resorted to the only means by which his conduct could be placed in a fair and honest light! Gentlemen, I thought it would have been my duty to cross-examine Mr. Phipps: he attends here, in consequence of a *subpœna*, from the other side, and yet my learned Friends have not dared to call him. Such conduct shews, that which will be proved; it shews, that the prosecution is *rotten at the core!* But I shall call Mr. Phipps, who will distinctly state, that Lady Perceval told him, her son would be Chancellor of the Exchequer in the course of a few years, and then should come the printer's reward! When my learned Friends discovered the facts to which Mr. Phipps would swear, they abstained from calling upon him. What is the natural inference? It evidently is this, that even in their opinion Lady Perceval was *not* the witness of truth. Mr. Phipps, as I before intimated, finding that a full explanation, which he considered necessary, and sought, by calling on Lady Perceval at Blackheath, was avoided, by the latter contriving to get rid of Mitford, so that the parties could not be confronted with each other, conceived it absolutely necessary to give to the public a narrative of the transaction. Lady Perceval then applied for a rule of the Court of King's Bench, calling on Mr. Phipps to shew cause why a criminal information, for a libel, said to be contained in

his statement, should not be filed against him. A conditional rule was granted, but, when it came on to be argued, on the motion that it should be made absolute, the court thought fit to discharge it, in consequence of the affidavits of Mr. Phipps and Mr. Mitford. In the affidavit of the latter, he made those allegations which are the subject of the present indictment for perjury.

But why should Mr. Mitford make this affidavit, except impelled by the feelings of an honourable and honest man, which I say he is, although poor?—Why, but from a conviction that it was right for him to offer every atonement in his power, for the mischief he had unknowingly done to the property of Mr. Phipps, in whose paper he procured the publication of these forged documents?—What else could induce him to turn against his friend, the Viscountess Perceval? By Mr. Phipps there was no temptation thrown out—no consideration was offered to influence his actions?—Why, then, should Mr. Mitford do it? There was no other reason (for, according to the statement of my learned Friend, his feelings must have been strongly in favour of his *benefactress*, Lady Perceval,) but his own sense of what was due to Mr. Phipps. In spite of every effort to cause a departure from what was evidently his duty, his *integrity* kicked the beam, and it overleaped every prospect of advantage or interest, and directed him to stand boldly forward in behalf of the injured printer!

The indictment, you will find, states, that the defendant, intending, falsely, corruptly, and dishonestly, to get the rule, which I have before mentioned, discharged, did swear that Viscountess Perceval induced him to procure the insertion, in Mr. Phipps's paper, of these forged letters. The subject-matter of the indictment is contained in this affidavit,—where Mr.

Mitford positively deposes, that on or about the 31st of March, he met Lady Perceval at Blackheath, by appointment, who told him that letters of great consequence were to be published, and that Mr. Phipps was a proper person to entrust them with, as he was most likely to do justice to the Princess of Wales.

There are, in the indictment, no less than ten assignments of perjury; but there is no denial of Lady Perceval having, on or about the 31st of March, sent for the defendant. There is a great deal of special pleading; much ingenuity is manifested; but this fact is not expressly denied. The second assignment states, that "Lady Perceval did not, on the day in question, or on any other day, give the defendant letters, in her hand-writing, to be copied;—neither did she, on the day mentioned, state that it was a dangerous experiment." Now the allegation of the defendant, is, that Lady Perceval *said so*;—and I think it does not signify a single farthing, whether the statement was on that particular day, or on any other. I am sure, Gentlemen, when you have heard all the facts detailed, you will agree with me, that Lady Perceval did so express herself, particularly when you consider the dangerous tendency of the letters which shall be read to you, and which, by her own admission, were composed by her. You will perceive, from one of these letters, that she found fault with the defendant, because part of a paragraph, transmitted to him for insertion, was left out, the proprietor of the paper, to whom it was given, thinking it unsafe to publish it. The same remarks will apply to the third assignment. As to the 4th, averring that Lady Perceval never said what was stated by the defendant, about John Bull; namely, that the publication of these letters would rouse him, and make him clamorous;—this is a fact which can only

be known to the parties themselves; Mr. Mitford says, that, in a private meeting with Lady Perceval, she so expressed herself,—he speaks to the fact: and, unless there is something more in contradiction, than the mere evidence of Viscountess Perceval denying his statement, you must acquit him; I repeat it, Gentlemen, if there is nothing more than the bare oath of Viscountess Perceval opposed to the statement contained in the defendant's oath, he must have your verdict.—For it is a rule in law, particularly in cases of perjury, that, where a defendant has stated a fact upon oath, you shall receive his asseveration, rather than that of the plaintiff, if the latter is not supported by any collateral evidence. I am, therefore, of opinion, that we may leave out all these assignments, and come to that which states, that “the defendant did not copy these letters from a manuscript in the hand-writing of Lady Perceval.” Her Ladyship denies that the defendant copied these letters from originals in her hand-writing; *but she has not added, that they were not copied, in her presence, from letters written by some other persons.* Yet I think the woman who stands up to accuse another of the crime of perjury, should do it in the most plain and unequivocal manner. And, if her ladyship had alleged that which I have just adverted to, I should have entertained a suspicion of the integrity of my client; but, *when I find there is no count in the indictment, setting forth, “that the defendant did not copy the letters, in Lady Perceval's presence, from originals furnished, though not written, by her,”* I look upon the indictment as a mere special pleading effort,—an effort, which, however ingenious, will, I have no doubt, fail of success. If Lady Perceval, intending to impose on the defendant, had got other persons to imitate her hand-writing, and the letters,

thus copied, were placed before my client to deceive him, he must be extremely shallow who could imagine that such a subterfuge would entail the guilt of perjury upon the person thus unfairly dealt with; the question not being, whether the letters were copied from originals in *her* hand-writing,—but whether, from papers laid before the defendant by Lady Perceval.

Gentlemen, we come next to the evidence offered in support of the allegations contained in the indictment. —So far as Lady Perceval's direct examination went, she denied the facts sworn to by the defendant. And if her statement be adequately confirmed, you must receive it; but, in my opinion, Lady Perceval, on her cross-examination, did not appear in a very amiable light,—she did not give her evidence in that open, candid, decisive manner, which always characterises the *witness of truth*! To the best of my recollection, I asked her (and I beg you to remark the circumstance, for it shews very clearly the nature of her evidence,) whether she did not propose to Mrs. Mitford, to send her husband to St. Luke's?—Her answer was "No." I then demanded whether she had proposed to send him to Dr. Warburton's?—Still the answer was "No." I knew she had made this proposition, because my client had stated it upon oath,—and his deposition is at least as good as that of Viscountess Perceval. But mark what follows :—her own son, the young gentleman who has just gone down from the witness-box, has admitted the fact, and thus contradicted his mother,—he swears that he was present when it was proposed by Lady Perceval, to Mrs. Mitford, that her husband should be sent to Hoxton!

Where, then, is the truth—the boasted veracity of this lady?—of her, forsooth, whose rank is called in aid to overpower and bear down an unfortunate gentleman,

duped by her machinations! Oh, but 'tis said the defendant has confessed his guilt! so has many a man, whose innocence has yet been proved. But let us examine into *this* shallow artifice, and see how the thing stands. The forgery having been discovered, in a moment of distress, surrounded with difficulties, and when the honour and reputation of Lady Perceval was at stake, my client, in return for kindnesses formerly conferred, urgently solicited and importuned, consented to save the lady, though he should sacrifice himself; and therefore agreed, not only to confess the crime, *but to add* that he was bribed to forge the letters by a gentleman, whose honour and reputation would spurn at such an act. This mention of a bribe explains the whole, and the venemous contrivance is easily seen through, when it is recollected, that the gentleman alluded to holds a distinguished situation in the house of an illustrious personage, on whom to fix a stain would infinitely delight the Viscountess Perceval! It is now time to inquire, what return Lady Perceval made to Mr. Mitford for this generous self-immolation!—to make her own protection doubly sure, she urges him to retire to a mad-house; this he thinks too much, and refuses, his mind being at that time as perfect as that of any man that hears me; she determines to pursue her purpose, sends for his wife, and endeavours to associate her in the conspiracy against her husband; the wife will not consent, and then (to use the lady's own phrase) a *legal counsel* is consulted, who is directed to prepare a letter for Mrs. Mitford to copy, which is to be sent to the governor of Whitmore house, ordering him to send a keeper to protect his family from the rage of this *volens volens* madman—from the fury of *Lady Perceval's dangerous lunatic*, for whose relief, notwithstanding her love for all the Mitford family, she had not called in the as-

sistance of even the family apothecary: however the keeper arrives, my client is put into his clutches, and thus deprived of his liberty, the Viscountess thinks herself secure!—Base, unfeeling degeneracy, which has no parallel amongst the titled fair of Britain, and compels me to exclaim :

“Are there no stones in Heaven, but those designed for thunder !”

Gentlemen, my learned Friend has said, that he was willing to let his case be judged by the conduct of the Defendant, after the publication took place. I am no less willing to let it rest on the conduct of Lady Perceval. She has, I know, denied all that I have asked her, respecting the interview with Mr. Phipps; she shrinks at the mere idea of her *lily hand* having touched the printer's honest *ink-stained fist*. If you believe her, she did not call him the saviour of her family; she never mentioned his future reward! But, Gentlemen, I will prove all this to you, *totidem verbis*, as I asked the questions of the witness! But what can one think of Lady Perceval's conduct, who, having Mr. Mitford in her power, never produced him to Mr. Phipps who was so anxious to see him, and who went to Blackheath for the purpose? Her Ladyship, no doubt, thought that if Mitford and the printer met together, the one accusing the other, the whole subject of the letters would be canvassed in her presence, and a discovery would probably be made which she wished to avoid.—Therefore she resolved no meeting should take place.

I asked her Ladyship whether she had taken the lodgings for Mr. Mitford, and whether she visited him late at night? She was quite indignant at the question. And, after some difficulty, she stated, that she did not *pay* for the lodgings—“but,” said she, “I recom-

mended him and his wife to the gentleman who kept the house." That is to say, they would not be admitted without my recommendation, and, therefore, I gave it. She stated further, that she did not drive up in her coach to his door, *sometimes*, because the pavement was not down; now, every body who knows Crawford-street, must be sensible, that it was paved a twelvemonth ago. It is a great thoroughfare, leading, I believe, into Baker-street. His Lordship, for which I am indebted to him, demanded, whether her servant always attended her in those visits to Crawford-street; but, remarkable as the circumstance must be, *she could not answer positively*. But, Gentlemen, she has gone repeatedly to the Defendant's lodgings, unattended, after he was in bed, and sent up her scribblings to him, that he might get them inserted in the papers. I do not mean to impute to her that she was frail; but I state this to shew that she was ashamed of her conduct, and that she sought the obscurity of night to screen her from observation. If her motives were good, what was the necessity of concealment? There is no secrecy in truth; it stands before the world open and unabashed; but—

"Suspicion haunts the guilty mind."

Lady Perceval thought the necessity of the case pleaded her excuse sufficiently, and, therefore, went on foot, unattended, because she was afraid of attracting notice.

Gentlemen, I put into the hands of Lady Perceval, some papers, which she acknowledged were of her writing, to which I now proceed to call your attention, commencing with that, "When Nelson was a child;" but, before I read it, I think it necessary that I should explain its meaning. Every man knows the courage of that departed hero, who died in the service of his country, whose words Lady Perceval quotes, as a reproach to those who

refused to publish *some* of her paragraphs in their original state; they being, it seems, more timid than her Ladyship was. But, Gentlemen, *she* fought behind a screen; she was not in the forlorn hope, destined to bear the brunt of the engagement. No, no, my poor client was to mount the breach; he was to shield her Ladyship, and, if the attempt did not succeed, he was to be the sacrifice. All this I shall shew you, and that what he has done, was not merely under the direction, but under the *control* of this heroic lady, who most ungenerously took advantage of that bounty, which the learned Counsel has stated her to have bestowed on my client; she wrought upon the unsuspecting goodness of his heart, and exercised the right of positive command over him. She tells him, in her letters, to do this and that, and specially directs him not to take any step without first communicating it to her. Now, Gentlemen, I will read the letter.

“ Monday.

“ Nelson, when a child, said, ‘ What is fear? I never saw ‘ it.’ Mr. T. would not have won the battle of the Nile. Let those fear who espouse a bad cause. *We* who contend for *Justice* for the Princess of Wales, and for our future Queen, should not flinch—Cowards never gained the field. I wish to God, Mr. T—— had been any where but *there* just then—and I hope he will have a prosperous voyage, but not a speedy return. I would Mr. M. being a man, as he is, of bold and valiant principle—of honorable, energetic, and chivalric feeling, were *alone* proprietor of his P——. I hate *half* measures, half arguments, half appeals to the public sense and heart: they never answered yet. Rush upon your enemy—surprise; astound him—and terror unhorses him!

“ I shall be glad if *the abortion* of my letter do good. But it is vexations when a whole, so complete as it was, connected the one part with the other, to have it mangled,—and a bit only thrown to the public.

“ Yesterday was the very day for it—‘ The tide-serving ‘ moment’ that Shaksp—— bids us watch and catch. But what is done cannot be helped—Another time tho’—*pray no more*

lations—and what Mr. T. may have no stomach for, may please another's appetite; and something of lighter digestion can be prepared for him.—*I am sure* Mr. M. *was* truly distressed.—When Mr. T. goes into the country, will Mr. M. have the power *then* to insert at pleasure? It is really cruel to have torn me piecemeal—for observe how the connection of the parts is destroyed by it—How difficult to rejoin this snake, which would so keenly have stung where we intended—without the venom being libellous. Send me back *my copy*, for I *have none*, and I cannot *re-create* until I have it.

Who, (asked Mr. ALLEY,) created *this*? Lady Perceval acknowledged herself to be the author; and, Gentlemen, if she gave birth to such sentiments as these, can it be doubted that she would also create the paragraphs published in *The News*? Paragraphs, which bear the same proportion to what I have just now read, as an innocent dew-drop does to the most poisonous liquid. Her Ladyship goes on to say—

———“So, without loss of time or post, return it to me, and I will see what I can do.”

That is, she would try whether she could not devise some other mode of using what the printer had refused to publish. Now, Gentlemen, mark the determined spirit she exhibits:

“But promise me that if Mr. M. will not insert it as I send it (save and except any expression that may be strictly libellous, —which I am sure there *was* none in that letter,—which I can alter,) to return it me whole: for as the cause must not lose for other's squeamishness, it should find its way somehow to the public—but not with the same signature as that given to Mr. M——.”

This is certainly new in the annals of female diplomacy and intrigue. One party having refused the article, it must be cooked up again, in a different way; and, under another signature, it is to be given to the world. These passages, Gentlemen, appear to me to be the most ma-

terial, and it is hardly necessary that I should call your attention further to the extracts which I have read from this extraordinary letter. Many of you, I am sure, would excuse me any further labour; for I think you will agree with me, that the person who could force upon the defendant such an epistle as that which I have read, would not scruple to ask him to publish any thing. I shall now, Gentlemen, proceed to a second letter, also directed by her Ladyship to Mr. Mitford:—

“ Sunday.

“ I write this in case you should disappoint me again and again—though I hope not; for it is of the utmost importance, I repeat, to both *our agency* and our chivalric cause, that you should not leave me so ignorant, &c. &c. Besides, you were to have brought me the letters for Mr. Downes, inclosing the paper I wanted to send him on my money businesses. Next place, I want the paragraph about Billy Austin, for I suppose Mr. M—— does not wish to insert it, as he has not:—on the contrary, I observe in the paper of last night, an allusion and extract upon the same subject—but very tame and inefficient. I would, therefore, wish you to bring it back to me, that I may do what I like with it, and make some use of it. I would also be glad of the other scrap, about “ God Save the K——.” I beg you will get possession back of the copy of the letter printed, which was written in large hand.”

Is it not clear, Gentlemen, from this language, that Lady Perceval was at the head-quarters, aiding and assisting in the fabrication of various letters? The Defendant certainly was, in some part, connected with these transactions. I am sorry he was mixed with them; but he has done all he can to atone for his conduct,—he has come forward, in spite of threats and entreaties, to justify the man who was injured by those proceedings. The letter, which was written from the country to Mr. Mitford, continues:—

“ I do not send the other which is ready,—because, since Mr. M—— has not liked Billy A——, he will not, perhaps,

like this; and if I do not see you, or hear from you, I always fear accidents, people changing their feelings, &c."

Her Ladyship appears to be a very good sort of woman.—Nothing, it seems she dreads so much, as that worst of moral accidents, "people changing their feelings." She is quite unwilling, when people get into danger, that they should save themselves by turning evidence against their fellows.—No, her command is, "stick to your text, dear Mr. Mitford; never, under any circumstances, depart from it." The letter goes on—

"I do expect that now is the moment of the tide serving for our cause. John Bull's heart is her's, and his eyes are opened; and we must hope that if Englishmen would championize Mrs. Clarke, the P——,

(That is, Gentlemen, the *prostitute*; I suppose Mrs. Clarke will not be much obliged to her Ladyship for the appellation.)

"against the king's son,—very unjustly, and to their discredit, I ever thought,—those same Englishmen will at heart defend and protect their old king's niece and their young queen elect's mother.—Do, pray, answer this note, unless I shall have seen you;—at all events, send me Downe's letter and Billy A——.

"I do not suppose you will let me leave town without seeing you. Can you come this evening—between ten and twelve o'clock—you will find me returned from Fulham.

"If Mr. M. will choose another letter for to-morrow's paper, come and say so; but I do not send it without being certain it will be accepted.

"I can put Billy A—— in the form of a letter, for I much wish that it should be in. The paragraph of last night called forth not an atom of warm feeling. Such benevolence as that of the person in question, should be known, and not be misrepresented."

From this, Gentlemen, it is apparent that her ladyship did not think the Defendant fit to conduct such a concern.—She speaks to him, not as a *particeps criminis*

in the production of her libels; but as a mere tool and agent, knowing that she might shake him off whenever she pleased! And so, in truth, she would have done, if it had not been for the existence of these letters. Fortunately, however, they were preserved, although she called on the Defendant's wife and begged her to burn them, which Mrs. Mitford assured her had been done; and, at another period, I will shew, that she requested Mr. Phipps, when she heard he had other letters in his possession, to destroy them. Happily for Mr. Phipps and for the Defendant, these documents are still in being, and afford a clue to the whole of this base transaction. Sorry should I be, Gentlemen, if her Ladyship's misconduct were detrimental to the interests of her children. God forbid that the sins of the mother should be visited on that young gentleman who lately gave his testimony. But, whatever the consequences may be, however it may affect a family to whose abilities the country is so much indebted, all the circumstances of this case must be developed, and the course pursued by Lady Perceval must be clearly pointed out. The next letter says,—

“ Where is the copy of the letter, for I suppose you have sent it now? I have had no *Stars*; you promised them to me last night; pray bring them to-morrow, &c.”

He was, it seems, to have sent many of *The Star* newspapers to her, for the purpose of letting the other parties connected with the conspiracy, see the progress she was making, and to give them an opportunity of applauding the wickedness which had been perpetrated:—

“ You may come down this evening if you can, to tell me all that has passed since. I am going out at five o'clock. I must see you before Monday, if you can. When is the other letter

to be in? &c. I assure you we must work them well. If Mr. M—— does not like to put it in, I wish you would withdraw it, that I may send it elsewhere. M——, I think, neglects the cause."

All this shews you, Gentlemen, that Mr. Mitford was still acting in the capacity of agent, as I have before observed. The next letter with which I shall trouble you, says,—

"It is very singular, that since my son left you on Friday evening, I have neither heard of you nor seen you. No papers—no insertions. I am afraid your friend M—— does not mean, or wish to insert, either letter; he had much better have said this candidly from the first. Therefore, without fail, I must requise you to bring back both the MSS. of the remarks of the letter; both are absolutely necessary for the publication of the cause."

This is perfectly characteristic of the transaction. Observe, Gentlemen, her Ladyship's caution: "Do not keep the manuscript; bring it back to me, who am the author."—What would she not have given to get back these letters?

"You may say to your friend Mr. M——, that since he and Mr. T—— object to them both, your friend directs you to return them immediately."

Here again, the same expression, the same feeling pervades all the letters. Lady Perceval does not call upon the defendant to take back these articles to himself, but she demands that they may be returned to her, from whom they originally came. The letter continues:

"I hope you have not forgotten to-morrow's *News*. You understand my allusion."

On this, Gentlemen, I could make many observations, but, as I have not evidence to sustain them, I will pass

it over; for I wish not to introduce a word that I cannot prove.

“ You must not come to where I am, but to the Green Man Inn, and send me a message to say you are there. I shall be in town early in the morning, therefore let me hear from you at all events, &c.”

This is of a piece with all the rest of her letters; she commands the Defendant to return her the documents, which she had transmitted to him. Perhaps she imagined there was some danger, and, therefore, she orders him to restore the manuscripts. I shall only request your attention, Gentlemen, to one other letter; but, if my learned friends wish it, they may have the whole of them read. The paper to which I allude, and which the proper officer will presently read to you, contains one of the grossest libels that ever was written,—a libel on an illustrious personage, and on a nobleman filling one of the highest situations in the state,—and, I am sure, the noble Judge will pardon me if I say, a libel on one of the best men that ever graced the judicial seat,—I mean the present Chancellor. The times are gone by, when this inflammatory composition would be treated as something worse than libel. But Lady Perceval ought to know, that there were periods in the history of this country, better than those of Charles or of James, in which no great delicacy was observed, when the production of such a writing would have been considered as an overt act of treason. That paper only I shall require to be read to you, in addition to those which I have already noticed. I have other letters here, and I will keep them, but should public justice demand them, hereafter, they shall be forthcoming.

Now, Gentlemen, let us observe a little, what oc-

curred immediately prior to the publication of these forged documents. Mr. Phipps, thinking he had got hold of letters really written by those great authorities, whose names they bore, and coming into his hands through Mitford, did not hesitate to publish them. And it is a circumstance which ought to be particularly noticed, that Mitford, when he delivered the documents, did not make use of any false name, which he certainly might if he were conscious that he was doing wrong. He, however, did no such thing; he boldly and directly mentions Lady Perceval, as the person from whom he procured the letters. Mr. Phipps, anxious to give them to the public, before his brother journalists, and convinced of their being genuine, inserts them in his paper without scruple. The moment he has published them, his office is beset, and he is informed, on all sides, that they are forgeries. "Forgeries!" says he; "I have had them from a Mr. Mitford, and he told me he got them from Viscountess Perceval." But what does her Ladyship? After the thing has been buzzed about, she sends to London; the matter is discovered, and she determines to ruin the defendant and save herself. Mr. Speechley is dispatched to Mr. Phipps, and her son is sent to Mr. Mitford. What! to the man who had dared to impute forgery to Viscountess Perceval? Yes, he is sent to that very man, and this too by his mother! When he met Mr. Mitford in what way did he greet him? Did he say to him,—“You have done that which was profligate and base, for which I shall take you by the collar.” Nothing of this kind, on the contrary he is introduced into the audience chamber, and treated with great civility. Meantime, Speechley is sent to Mr. Phipps, to entreat him, for God’s sake, merely to state that the letters are forgeries. And, when

he declares that he cannot, consistently with his honour, do that, she writes to him as follows:

(See Appendix, No. XI.)

No sooner does Mr. Phipps, in consequence of this note, make his appearance, than her Ladyship, for fear of a true *rectification*, as she calls it, contrives to send Mr. Mitford away. Gentlemen, the Defendant has declared it, that he did not, of his own free will, leave the house,—that he slept there that night,—and the next day his wife was sent for. He is at present the accused person; but, perhaps, he will have an opportunity of stating these facts, on his oath, in a court of justice, when the parties shall have changed places. The conduct of Mr. Phipps spoke for itself, it wanted no comment. “If,” said he to Lady Perceval, “Mitford has imposed upon me, let me see him here, face to face.” This was the proceeding of an honourable and well-intentioned man. But Lady Perceval never rang the bell, to order her servants to call up Mitford;—she does not direct her son or Mr. Speechley to search for him, and send him in.—No, she refuses the proposition of the honest printer, who desires to meet the business fairly, at that moment. This, Gentlemen, would not suit her Ladyship,—such an investigation, before her face, might have gone to a *conviction of her guilt*, and then she would not have an opportunity of bringing this accusation against the Defendant. Something more followed while Mr. Phipps remained:—Lady Perceval has denied it, but I shall prove it,—I will prove that she asked him to burn letters of her’s which he had then in his possession. For, when she stated the documents to be forged, he observed, “Lady Perceval, I have got other letters of yours in my possession, which, compared with those handed to me by Mitford, shew at once what you have

been about." "Dear Mr. Phipps," said her Ladyship, "publish such a contradiction as I have mentioned,—burn the letters, and you will be the saviour of me and my family; in six or seven years my son will be chancellor of the exchequer, and then comes your reward." Now, my learned Friends, who know something of these transactions, and who have *subpœnaed* Mr. Phipps, think it would be dangerous to produce him, and, therefore, have not examined him. But I shall call him into Court, and if my learned Friends gain any thing by this manœuvre, which gives them an opportunity of cross-examining the witness, they are extremely welcome to it.

Gentlemen, this case is of far greater importance to the public than to the parties immediately interested in it. If such fabrications are allowed to be published with impunity, the Government cannot stand!—If Lady Perceval's system is tolerated, the well-ordered state of society can no longer be maintained!—If this "*consilium sub consilio*," (to quote another of her Ladyship's phrases,) assembled in cabal at Perceval-lodge,—if this species of *petticoat-government* is once known to be endured, there is an end to the respectability of the country, in the eyes of foreign states, and to the contentment and happiness of the people at home!

Mr. ALLEY then returned his thanks to Lord Ellenborough and the Jury, for the patient attention they had afforded him, and concluded by calling,—

Mr. T. A. PHIPPS, *who was examined by Mr. CURWOOD.*

Q. What is your name?—A. Thomas Adderley Phipps.

Q. Are you the proprietor and editor of *The News* newspaper?—A. I am, sir.

Q. Have the goodness to look at that note, which purports to come from Lady Anne Hamilton; was it brought to you by Mr. Mitford?—A. It was.

Q. In consequence, did you insert in your paper, on the 4th of April, certain letters, purporting to be signed by the Lord Chancellor, the Earl of Liverpool, and Lord Castlereagh, brought to you by Mr. Mitford?—A. I did.

The following letter was here put in and read.—See *Appendix*, No. V.

Q. From whom did you receive these (the forged) letters?
A. From Mr. Mitford.

Q. Did you receive other paragraphs from him?—A. I received three paragraphs in all, in Lady Perceval's hand-writing.

Q. By Lord ELLENBOROUGH.—You know her hand-writing?
A. I do, my Lord; I received three paragraphs or articles.

Q. Having inserted these letters in your paper of the 4th of April, did you, on the same day, receive this letter from Lady Perceval?—A. I did.

The letter, dated Dartmouth-row, April 4, see *Appendix*, No. XI. was here read.

Q. Having received that letter, did you go to Lady Perceval's, at Blackheath, on that day?—A. I did.

Q. What time of the day did you get there?—A. About four or five in the afternoon; rather earlier, about four.

Q. Whom did you first see, when you arrived there?—A. I saw Mr. Speechley and Mr. John James Perceval in the road, apparently looking for me.

Q. You went into the house, of course?—A. I did, sir.

Q. Which of them first saw you?—A. I came upon them almost before either saw me; for, not knowing where the house was situated, I had gone past it, and came up as if I was coming from Lewisham; they were looking for me the contrary way, towards London.

Q. Did you see any person as you entered the house?—A. As I entered the house I met Mr. Mitford.

Q. Were you afterwards shewn in to Lady Perceval?—A. I was.

Q. Who was in the room with Lady Perceval?—A. When I entered the room, there were Mr. John James Perceval, a person I understood to be Mr. Hardcastle, and Mr. Speechley.

Q. Were they present at your conversation with Lady Perceval, or did they leave the room?—A. Lady Perceval desired Speechley and Hardcastle immediately to leave the room.

Q. By Lord ELLENBOROUGH.—Her son did not continue?
A. Her son remained at first, my Lord.

Mr. CURWOOD.—Now will you have the goodness, without my putting it to you, to state, slowly and distinctly, the conversation which passed between you.

Witness.—Lady Perceval said, “Mr. Phipps, this is a very sad thing; I know nothing of these letters.” I said, “I am astonished to hear that, for I had them from Mr. Mitford.” She then said, “Sure there must be some mistake, for Mitford has been at Woolwich ever since Thursday last, the 31st of March.” Her son was standing at the back of her chair, when she turned, as if to appeal to him to confirm what she had said; she did not appeal in words. I said, “Your Ladyship must be mistaken, for I met Mr. Mitford not five yards from the door of this room, on my entrance. She then, my Lord, desired her son to leave the room, and drew her chair rather closer to the table than she sat before; she said, “Mr. Phipps, this is a very unfortunate business; these letters, must be contradicted.” I said, I could not contradict them, without giving a full explanation of how I came by them. I said, I had been at considerable pains and expense, by Mr. Mitford’s desire, in informing the public, by means of advertisements and hand-bills, that I had such letters, and that I meant to publish them, on the Sunday, in my paper.

Q. By Lord ELLENBOROUGH.—How long before the Sunday, had you circulated these hand-bills?—**A.** Two days, my Lord, Friday and Saturday.

Q. By Lord ELLENBOROUGH.—Where did you advertise them?
A. In four morning papers, I believe.

Q. By Lord ELLENBOROUGH.—What papers were they?—**A.** *The Morning Chronicle, The Morning Post, The Morning Herald, and The Day or The British Press*; but I am not sure.

Q. By Lord ELLENBOROUGH.—Do you know whether Lady Perceval takes in either of these papers?—**A.** I do not know, my Lord.

Q. By Lord ELLENBOROUGH.—There were also bills, you say?
A. Yes, my Lord; there were likewise large posting-bills, through the streets of London, two days previous.

Mr. Phipps continued his narrative.—And, therefore, that it behoved me to give a full explanation, to the public, of the manner in which they came into my hands. Lady Perceval said, she could not account for Mitford’s conduct, any other way than by supposing him to be insane; that he had been some short time before confined in a mad-house, and that she supposed he was ill again. Her son came in about this time, and she appealed to him as to the truth of this.

Q. By Lord ELLENBOROUGH.—As to the fact of madness?
—**A.** Yes, my Lord, and he confirmed it.

Mr. Phipps proceeded.—I said he had no appearance, to me, of being insane. She then endeavoured, very earnestly,

to persuade me simply to contradict the letters in my paper; but I constantly refused, without an explanation. I then said that the letters he had delivered to me, on the Thursday preceding, were not the only letters and papers, or articles, in my possession, which I had had delivered to me, in the fortnight I had known him; that I was in possession of several letters, some of which purported to be in the hand-writing of her ladyship.

Q. By Lord Ellenborough.—You believed them to be in her hand-writing?—A. I did, my Lord, and I told her so.

Mr. Phipps.—And one which purported to be in the hand-writing of the Princess of Wales.

Q. By Lord Ellenborough.—How do you mean purporting; writing does not purport of itself by whom it is formed?—A. It had the signature C. P. and all the characteristics of a letter written by the Princess of Wales.

Mr. Phipps continued.—She said, “Mr. Phipps, they are all forgeries.”

Q. By Lord Ellenborough.—Have you that letter, which purports to be her's, as you call it, here?—A. Yes, my Lord.

Mr. Phipps proceeded.—“And I hope you will burn them, or deliver them up to me.” She repeated this with very considerable agitation and earnestness; so much so, that though I had the letters then in my pocket, I did not think it prudent to say that I had. Lady Perceval then said, she would have the letters contradicted in the daily papers. I said, with that I had nothing to do, she was at perfect liberty to do what she pleased in any other paper, but that I could not insert a simple contradiction of them in mine. She then endeavoured to reason with me on the folly of supposing that a simple contradiction of them would injure or hurt the interests of my paper.

Q. By Lord Ellenborough.—Did she explain what she meant by a *simple* contradiction?—A. Merely to this effect, my Lord: “We understand the letters published yesterday in *The News* are forgeries.”

Mr. Phipps continued.—I still persisted in opinion that it would, and therefore refused. She then asked me to write a copy of a paragraph or two for her, to send to the papers of the following morning, which I did, in terms of her editing, but never with any view to insertion in my own paper. She then said, that I had done a great deal of service to the cause of the Princess of Wales, and that it would materially injure that cause if I entered into the explanation which I said was necessary. I said, I should be sorry to do so, but that I could not contradict the letters without a full explanation of the manner in which I came by them. She then was very earnest in her entreaties, and I grew almost weary of withstanding her importunity. I then said, I would go home and consult my friends, and be guided by their advice how I should act. She appeared

to take this as consenting to what she had been requesting of me, and she took me by the hand and said, I was the saviour of herself and her family.

Q. By Lord Ellenborough.—Are you sure of this?—A. I swear it, my Lord. She took me by the hand and said, I was the saviour of herself and her family. Whether she rang the bell, or Mr. Perceval came in of his own accord, at that moment, I really am hardly certain, but I know at that moment he did come in, and Lady Perceval desired him to take me by the hand, and to vow an eternal friendship to me. She said, she had no doubt, but some years hence, he would fill some important post in the administration of his country, and that then I should not be forgotten. I still persisted in refusing to give any promise of what should be the future line of my conduct, and I then took my leave.

Q. When her ladyship said, that Mitford had been at Woolwich since the preceding Thursday, did she use no expression as to that morning?—A. No, sir.

Q. She did not tell you he was then in the house?—A. No, sir.

Q. Did she express any regret that he had gone?—A. She did not mention any thing about his being gone.

Q. She desired you to write a paragraph to contradict these letters?—A. She did.

Q. Do you know that she used it, in the application for a rule against you, personally, in the Court of King's Bench?—A. I believe she did, in the affidavit on which the application was founded, and I answered it in mine.

Q. It is fair to apprise you, that what you have stated about her taking you by the hand, and calling you the saviour of her family, is contradicted by her; now do you mean to assert it?—A. I swear it, sir, positively.

Cross-examined by Mr. Holt.

Q. You say, you received three paragraphs, from Mr. Mitford, in Lady Perceval's hand-writing?—A. I did.

Q. Were not two of them letters?—A. No: one was relative to the delivery of some two-penny post letters, at Montague-house, and a second related to the Duchess of Brunswick's will.

Q. They were on one piece of paper?—Yes; but they were different paragraphs, on different subjects.

Q. Were not those on one piece of paper, delivered at the same time, and making one article?—A. No, sir, they did not form one article.

Q. What was that which you called the third paragraph?—A. It was an article entitled "A curious fact."

Q. Was it on a different piece of paper?—A. It was.

Q. When was it delivered?—A. About a fortnight after I became acquainted with Mr. Mitford. He was with me every day for a fortnight.

Q. You mean to swear, that these three paragraphs consisted of two on one slip of paper, and that the other was a paragraph on a different piece?—A. I do.

Q. Did you receive the last-mentioned paragraph before or after the others?—A. I do not know whether I received it before or after; but I got them all from Mr. Mitford.

Q. You do not know which preceded the other?—A. No, I do not.

Q. Did you ever hear from Lady Perceval, until you wrote to Lady Anne Hamilton, asking information from Montague-house?—A. Yes, I had three letters from her.

Q. Were they not to order the paper?—Yes, they were; but they contained compliments I did not deserve.

Q. One for herself, one for Lady Hamilton, and one for somebody at Bridgewater?—A. Yes.

Q. Did you receive any other letter or communication authorising you to write to Lady Anne Hamilton?—A. I should never have thought of writing to Lady Anne Hamilton, but for those complimentary letters just mentioned.

Q. You wrote to Lady Anne Hamilton relative to the affairs of the Princess of Wales?—A. I did, Sir.

Q. And, in answer to the letter you sent to Lady Anne Hamilton, you received a letter, which has been read, in Lady Anne's name, but written by Lady Perceval?—A. I did.

Q. In the letter to Lady Anne Hamilton, you made an offer of the columns of your paper,—and, in answer, received a letter neither declining nor accepting the offer?—A. I received the letter which has been read.

Q. In whose hand-writing were the letters published on the 4th of April?—A. In Mr. Mitford's hand-writing.

Q. I see you have sworn, that, at the time you received the copies of those forged letters from Mitford, he informed you that he received the same from Lady Perceval?—A. He did so.

Q. Now, sir, I ask you, on your oath, did you not tell a different story, and make a different statement from this, at a former period?—A. Never, sir.

Q. Now, sir, I ask you, did you not tell Lady Anne Hamilton, on Sunday, the 4th of April, (and she is here this day) that, at the time Mitford gave you these letters, he stated, that he had copied them, in the presence of the Princess of Wales, from originals in her hand-writing,—and she talked so much, that he feared he had made many mistakes in the transcript?—A. He

did say, that he copied them in the presence of the Princess of Wales; but he was always consistent in saying he got them from Lady Perceval.

Q. He told you, then, that he copied them in the presence of the Princess of Wales, whose talking confused him?—A. He did tell me so at first,—at the time when he delivered the letters.

Q. Did you say to Lady Anne Hamilton, that, when he put those letters into your possession, he told you he had received them from the Princess of Wales, and had copied them in her presence?—A. He never said he got them from the Princess of Wales.

Q. That is no answer. Did you tell that to Lady Anne Hamilton?—A. I believe not.

Q. Will you swear it?—A. I do.—I could not have told her so.

Q. Did you not, in your paper of the 11th and 18th of April, state, in excuse for the publication of these letters, that Mitford had copied them in the presence of the Princess of Wales?—A. I did, but I had not seen Mitford then.

Q. How then can it be true that he copied them in Lady Perceval's drawing-room?—A. He always said he had *received* them from Lady Perceval.

Q. Then I am to understand, that the first account he gave was, that he copied the letters in the presence of the Princess of Wales, and that she gave them to him?—A. Certainly not. He always stated that he got the letters from Lady Perceval.

Q. You do not understand me.—Did you not publish that he received them from the Princess of Wales?—A. I never did.

Mr HOLT here desired the Witness to read an extract from *The News* of the 11th of April, which he did as follows :

“ On delivering to me these letters, Mr. Mitford stated that he was directed by the Princess of Wales to give them to me for the purpose of publication, and that they were to appear in *The News* of the Sunday following.”

Witness.—This Mr. Mitford stated to me; he expressed a wish to have the minutes he had given me returned to him, to make such corrections as they required; having told me that he copied them in the presence of the Princess of Wales, while she was talking to him, and that her noise probably occasioned him to make an error or two.

Q. You also published a statement in *The News* of the 18th?—A. I did.

Mr. HOLT here handed to the witness the paper of April 18, and he began to read a *note* subjoined to an article on the subject of these letters, commencing—"Mr. HOLT cites *no authority* for this bold assertion;" and going to state—"that Mr. Mitford informed him (Mr. Phipps), he had been honoured with several audiences by the Princess of Wales, *and that he copied the documents which had been called forged in the presence of her Royal Highness*;" when he was stopped short by Mr. HOLT, who proceeded with the examination.

Q. If, 14 days after this business you thus expressed yourself, how could you subsequently state, that Mr. Mitford got these letters from Lady Perceval, in her drawing-room?—
A. Mr. Mitford always said, he copied them in the presence of Lady Perceval.

Q. You have said, in the presence of the Princess of Wales?

Lord ELLENBOROUGH,—Lady Perceval might be present with the Princess of Wales.

Q. Did Mitford say, Lady Perceval was present?—A. He always said she was present.

Q. Do you speak with respect to one and the same copy, or to any other?—A. I have since been told by Mitford, that there were several copies.

Q. Did Mitford tell you, that Lady Perceval was with the Princess of Wales, in her room, when this particular copy was made?—I do not know whether it was at the Princess of Wales's or not; I cannot say, whether it was at Montague-house, or Dartmouth-row.

Q. Did you not tell Lady Anne Hamilton, that Lady Perceval was not present when the copy was made?—A. I could not tell her that.

Q. Did you not tell Lady Anne Hamilton, that Mitford, in the last conversation you had with him on the subject, never made any mention of Lady Perceval's name?—A. I did not.

Q. Did you, in any of your publications, from the 4th of April, state Lady Perceval to be the author of those forgeries, until she applied for the injunction in the Court of Chancery?—A. I was afraid to do it, as I had no evidence, though I believed her to be the author.

Q. Do you swear you told Lady Anne Hamilton, that Mitford informed you, that Lady Perceval was present when he got these letters?—A. I did tell her so.

Q. Did not Mitford bring you, at the same time that he gave you the letters for publication, another purporting to be from the Princess of Wales?—A. Yes, here is the letter; Mr. Mitford delivered it to me, and said Lady Perceval had delivered it to him.

Q. Before the letter was *emblazoned* in this book, [the letter was fixed in a 4to. volume, *The Life of Sir Walter Raleigh*,] did you not shew it to Lady Anne Hamilton, and did not she say it was a forgery?—A. No, sir; she said it was impossible to give a decisive opinion on her Royal Highness's writing, for she wrote twenty different hands, and even condescended to imitate her's.

Q. This you swear?—A. I do.

Q. Did not Lady Anne Hamilton produce a letter, with which she compared it, and then say it was a forgery?—A. She shewed me one or two letters, and some French songs, written by her Royal Highness, and we both compared them; I thought there was a considerable resemblance, but she did not.

Q. Did not she say it was a forgery?—A. No, she said that the letters "C. P." were certainly different from her Royal Highness's general signature.

Q. Did you not likewise produce another letter, directed to Lady Anne Hamilton, and coming from Mr. Mitford?—A. I did, sir.

Q. Can you produce it?—A. Yes, sir, here it is.

Q. On receiving that letter, which addresses her as an acquaintance, did not Lady Anne Hamilton say that she knew nothing of Mr. Mitford, that she had never seen him in her life?—A. She did, sir.

Q. She examined the letter?—A. She did, I put it into her hand.

Q. Was not Mitford very anxious to get back the letters in his own hand-writing, delivered to you?—A. Never, sir, he never asked me for one.

Q. Did he not require the three forged letters, which were in his own hand-writing?—A. He said, he was desired to take them back.

Q. Did he get them?—A. Yes, he did.

Q. Did not Speechley come to you, on Sunday morning, the 4th of April, to tell you, that there was a mistake, and the letters were forgeries?—A. He never told me they were forgeries.

Q. What did he tell you?—A. That Lady Perceval knew nothing of them.

Q. By Lord Ellenborough.—This was before you wrote your letter to her?—A. No, my Lord, afterwards.

Q. In your conversation with Lady Perceval, in her drawing-room?—Witness: I was not in her *drawing-room*, I saw her in the *butler's pantry*.

Q. No matter. At the time you spoke with her, in her house, did you tell her, that when Mitford delivered the letters to you, he informed you, that he received them from her ladyship?—A. I swear it. Mr. Mitford always said he got them from her, and copied them in her presence; he always made use of her name.

Q. Do you mean to say, that on Sunday, the 4th of April, you told her ladyship, that the letters came from Mitford, who told you, that he received these *identical* letters from her?—A. I did tell her so.

Q. Was any person present when you said this?—A. There might be: young Mr. Perceval was in and out; but I cannot speak positively.

Q. If, on the 4th of April you told her this, why did you state, for two months afterwards, in your paper, that they were copied at Montague-house, before the Princess of Wales?—A. Mr. Mitford always said, he copied them in the presence of the Princess of Wales, but that Lady Perceval was also present.

Q. In the statement contained in your paper you say, "that the letters were copied in the presence of the Princess of Wales by Mitford, who was directed to give them to you for publication, on the following Sunday;" here Lady Perceval's name is not mentioned: when, then, did you first make the charge, that Mr. Mitford had received them from Lady Perceval, who directed them to be brought to you?—A. Mr. Mitford told me, that he copied the letters by the direction of Lady Perceval, who afterwards gave them to him for the purpose of publication.

Lord Ellenborough.—You are asked, how soon after the publication of these letters, did you implicate Lady Perceval in this charge?—A. Immediately after I received these letters from Mr. Mitford.

Q. Did you say a word about her ladyship, till the application was made to dissolve the injunction in the Court of Chancery?—A. I believe not, for I was afraid; I had no evidence.

Q. You were not afraid to state, that the letters were copied in the Princess of Wales's presence, and that her talking confused Mr. Mitford?—A. No, sir, because Mr. Mitford told me so.

Q. Did he not also say, that he received the letters from Lady Perceval?—A. He always told me, that he received them from Lady Perceval.

Q. But you never stated it?—**A.** Her ladyship denied it on the Monday.

Q. Did you tell Lady Perceval distinctly that you received the letters from Mitford, and that he said he got them from her?—**A.** I did.

Q. Did you also make the statement relative to the Princess of Wales to her?—**A.** I did.

Q. Is this letter yours?—**A.** It is:—See *Appendix*, No. X.

Q. Was it not in consequence of this letter, written by you to Lady Perceval, on Sunday morning, that you received another letter from her, on the same day?—**A.** Yes.

Q. Now, in that letter is there a single word, importing that Lady Perceval or the Princess of Wales knew of these letters? is not Mr. Mitford alone mentioned?—**A.** A general feeling of that description pervades the letter, although there is no particular expression.

The letter from Mr. Phipps to Lady Perceval, was here put in and read:—See *Appendix*, No. X.

Q. By Lord ELLENBOROUGH.—This letter was written on Sunday morning, at Six o'clock?—**A.** Yes, my lord.

Q. By Lord ELLENBOROUGH.—You had not seen Speechley then?—**A.** No, my lord.

Lord ELLENBOROUGH.—Then it is evident that this letter was written under an impression, that Lady Perceval had some connection with the documents published that morning.

Q. When you went to Lady Perceval's, you say you met Mitford coming out of the yard?—**A.** Yes.

Q. Did you shake hands with him?—**A.** I don't think I did; but I cannot swear it.

Q. Did you retire into the yard with him?—**A.** I did not; he seemed to wish to run away from me.

Q. Did you accost him?—**A.** I said, Mitford, you are the very man I want to see; he did not utter a word, but made a motion with his hand, as much as to say, "go into that room," and away he went,—I saw him no more.

Q. Did you ever tell Lady Anne Hamilton, that Mitford, in his last conversation with you, when he delivered the letters, never once mentioned the name of Lady Perceval?—**A.** I told her, that I received them from Mr. Mitford, who informed me, that he had

received them from Lady Perceval, with directions for me to publish them.

Q. This you assert ?—A. I swear it.

Q. When you saw Lady Perceval, she told you they were forgeries ?—A. Not at first ; she said she knew nothing about them ; there must be some mistake.

Q. Did not you ask Lady Perceval to befriend you and your family ?—A. Never.

Q. Did you not tell her, that the more papers the letters were contradicted in, the better ?—A. No, I did not ; I was unwilling that they should be contradicted.

Q. Did you ask Lady Anne Hamilton her opinion as to the authenticity of these letters ?—A. I did.

Q. What did she say in reply to that ?—A. She said, there was nothing on the face of the documents to induce her to suppose they were not genuine, if I were sure I had them from Mr. Mitford. She likewise said, that the circumstance of her name being to them was no proof to her that they were not genuine letters ; because Lady Perceval had a *carte blanche* to use her name in all the concerns of the Princess of Wales ; but she said she knew nothing of them.

Q. You are positive of this ?—A. I swear it.

Re-examined by Mr. CURWOOD.

Q. You have been asked, did you not get articles in the handwriting of Lady Perceval, and you have answered that you did ?—A. Yes.

Q. They were not on the same paper ?—A. No, they were not.

Mr. CURWOOD.—I see they were not ; for the paper on which the two paragraphs are written, is not of the same size with that containing, *A Curious Fact*.

Witness.—I would not publish so scandalous a libel as that you have just named.

[The paragraph intitled *A Curious Fact*, was here put in and read :—See *Appendix*.]

Q. By Lord ELLENBOROUGH.—Was that paragraph inserted in the paper ?—A. No, my lord ; I refused to insert it.

Lord ELLENBOROUGH.—It ought to be burned.

[The other two paragraphs were next read :—See *Appendix*, No. VII.]

Witness.—These paragraphs I received from Mr. Mitford.

Q. By Lord ELLENBOROUGH.—Were they inserted in the paper?—A. They were, my lord.

Q. You have been examined as to a supposed contradiction.—I think you told me, that Mitford said he had copied these letters in the presence of the Princess of Wales, Lady Perceval being also present?—A. That is the fact; he always said so.

Q. She might have been present, and handed the copy over to him?—A. Certainly.

Q. Did you shew Lady Anne Hamilton the note, purporting to come from her, on the subject of the offer of your columns?—A. I did.

Q. What did she say?—A. That Lady Perceval had authority to use her name; but she was averse to what her ladyship was doing in the newspapers: it was contrary to her feelings.

Q. Did you represent to Lady Hamilton, that you got these letters from Mr. Mitford; and that he said he had received them from Lady Perceval?—A. I did.

Q. You say, that though you believed Lady Perceval to be the author of these letters, yet you were afraid to publish your sentiments, from want of evidence?—A. I was afraid to publish them in my paper, on that account.

Q. You believe her *now* to be the author?—A. I do, firmly.

[Three letters were here put in and read.—They were all addressed to the Defendant. The first, commencing, “When Nelson was a child—”; the second, “I write this, in case you should disappoint me again and again,—”; and the third, complaining of not having seen him for some days.—See *Appendix*.]

Mr. ALLEY.—My Lord, I rest my case here.

Mr. HOLT.—I call Lady Anne Hamilton to contradict the last witness.

Lady Anne Hamilton examined by Mr. HOLT.

Q. Your ladyship, in April last, was one of the ladies of the bed-chamber to the Princess of Wales?—A. Yes, I was.

Q. Do you recollect a person of the name of Phipps calling on your ladyship, on the 4th of April, last year?—A. Yes.

Q. Did he produce any papers?—A. Yes; they were printed in his newspaper of that day.

Q. Did you read those papers?—A. I did, at last; but not at first.

Q. When you read those letters, what did you tell him?—A. I said, I was convinced they were all forgeries.

Q. Did Phipps tell you from whom he received them?—A. I cannot recollect.

Q. But you will recollect, if you think a little?—A. [After a pause]—He said Mr. Mitford gave them to him.

Q. Did he tell you from whom Mitford, when he gave him the letters, represented he had received them?—A. No.

Q. I am not understood. Did he tell you from whom Mitford said he had received the letters?—A. I think he did.

Q. From whom?—A. He said, Mitford had copied them at Montague-house.

Q. And from whom had he received them?—A. That he had got them at Montague-house, was what Mr. Phipps told me.

Q. Did Phipps say, that Mitford had received them from anybody at Montague-house?—A. No; he said, that Mitford copied them, in the presence of the Princess of Wales, at Montague-house.

Q. Did Phipps add any particulars, as to the manner in which Mitford copied them?—A. That Mitford said, he was very much alarmed writing in the presence of so great a personage.

Q. Did Mr. Phipps make any mention of Mitford's having received the letters from any other individual than this illustrious personage: did he mention Lady Perceval?—A. I asked him if he was sure it was from Mr. Mitford he had received the letters.

Q. And did he say, that Mitford had brought them from Lady Perceval?—A. Now I recollect, he never once mentioned Lady Perceval's name in this last conversation.

Q. You mean, that Phipps said, that, in his last conversation with Mitford, the latter never mentioned Lady Perceval's name?—A. Yes.

Q. Your ladyship then is quite sure, that Phipps said Mitford told him, that he copied the letters at Montague-house; that he was alarmed whilst he was so employed; and that he never mentioned Lady Perceval's name?—A. I am: and when he was asked, whether Mitford said he got them from Lady Perceval, he answered "No:" on the contrary, Mitford never named her ladyship.

Q. Then you are sure that Phipps did not tell you, that Mitford had got the letters from Lady Perceval?—A. I am sure I have stated exactly what he said.

Q. Look at that letter; do you recollect Phipps putting a letter into your hand, purporting to come from Mitford?—A. I do.

Q. You told him you never had any correspondence with Mr. Mitford?—A. I did, directly or indirectly.

Q. Is that the letter?—A. It is.

[The following letter from Mr. Mitford to Lady Anne Hamilton was here read :—See *Appendix*, No.VIII.]

Q. You never corresponded with Mitford, or saw him in your life, till that letter was put in your hand?—A. Never.

Q. Did Mr. Phipps put another letter in your hand, purporting to be written by the Princess of Wales?—A. Yes, he did.

Q. Did you give him any opinion as to the authenticity of that letter?—A. I told him I was quite sure it was a forgery.

Q. Did you give any reason why?—A. It was totally unlike her royal highness's hand-writing.

Q. Did your ladyship tell Phipps, that her royal highness was accustomed to write twenty different hands, and had often condescended to imitate yours?—A. I never said so.

Q. Did you ever tell Phipps that you gave Lady Perceval a *carte blanche* to use your name in the affairs of the Princess of Wales?—A. Never.

Q. Did you, in fact, give her a *carte blanche*?—A. Never but on two occasions. The one, to order the paper for me, the other to *refuse* the offer of Mr. Phipps's columns, positively, but civilly.

Q. Did your ladyship ever state any doubts of the authenticity of the letters shewn to you?—A. Never, after I read them.

Q. Did you tell Mr. Phipps that you disapproved of Lady Perceval's connection with newspapers?—A. No, sir.

Q. Nothing to that effect?—A. Not that I can recollect.

Q. Did Mr. Phipps represent to you, that Mitford said he had often been at Montague-house?—A. Not the word often; but that he had been there, and copied the letters in her royal highness's presence.

Cross-examined by Mr. CURWOOD.

Q. In the month of April last, your ladyship was one of the ladies of the bed-chamber to the Princess of Wales?—A. I was.

Q. I do not know whether that situation requires a great deal of attendance about her person?—A. I lived in the house.

Q. Your ladyship, of course, is acquainted with Lady Perceval?—A. Yes.

Q. Did you visit much at Perceval-house?—A. Sometimes.

Q. Did it happen to you to know, that Lady Perceval was in communication with the newspapers, on the subject of the Princess of Wales's affairs?—A. I cannot say it did.

Q. Can you say it was not known to you?—A. It was not.

Q. [Exhibiting a letter], do you know Lady Perceval's hand-writing?—A. I think that is hers.

Q. Now have you not given authority to her to use your name, or have you given her a *carte blanche*?—A. Never; except on two occasions.

Q. Once to order *The News*, and once to refuse Mr. Phipps's offer?—A. Yes.

Q. Why did you not write these letters yourself?—A. On the first occasion, Lady Perceval was writing for her own paper, and I requested her to write for me. On the second, I was in a hurry, and requested her to write a civil refusal of Mr. Phipps's offer, just as if I declined going to a party.

Q. Then if she wrote, accepting that offer, she acted contrary to your directions?—A. Certainly.

Q. And was guilty of a gross breach of trust?—A. Certainly. If I had seen the letter I never would let it have gone.

Q. You did not see it then, before it was sent?—A. I did not see it till it was published.

Q. Is that Mr. Phipps there?—A. I believe it is.

[Mr. Phipps was sitting within three feet of her ladyship].

Q. You are not certain?—A. No, I am not.

Q. By Lord ELLENBOROUGH.—Did you ever see that letter?—A. Never.

Lord ELLENBOROUGH.—Then let it be read; to see whether you would have given it your concurrence.

[The letter written by Lady Perceval, to Mr. Phipps, in Lady Anne Hamilton's name, was here read:—See *Appendix*, No. V.]

Q. By Lord ELLENBOROUGH.—You never authorized that letter?—A. Certainly not, my Lord.

Q. By Lord ELLENBOROUGH.—These are not your sentiments, of course?—A. I would not have let the letter go, if I had seen it.

Q. As you are not quite certain of Mr. Phipps's person, perhaps you may not be quite certain of the tenor of his conversation?—A. I think I recollect what passed.

Q. Did he shew you the letter he just read?—A. He did not.

Q. What did he say when he introduced himself?—A. He asked if I had seen a letter in his paper, *The News*, of that Morning, signed with my name? I asked by what authority I was questioned?—he then declared himself, and pointed out the letters.

Q. Did you at once say that they were forgeries?—A. He did not give me time; he surprised me by the letter which he gave me,

from Mr. Mitford, and by observing that he had other letters to shew me; but at last I said they were forgeries.

Q. You had no connection with these letters?—*A.* None whatever.

Q. Did Mr. Phipps not mention the name of Lady Perceval?—

A. I cannot recollect.

Q. Did Mr. Phipps not inform you that Mitford said Lady Perceval had given him the forged letters?—*A.* I do not recollect.

Mr. CURWOOD.—But you should recollect; you come here expressly to contradict a witness, and therefore should recollect.

Questioned by Lord ELLENBOROUGH.

Q. Did you see any advertisement respecting the publication of letters said to have passed between you and Lords Eldon, Liverpool, and Castlereagh?—*A.* No, my Lord, I did not.

Q. What paper do you take in?—*A.* *The News*; I don't take in any daily paper.

Q. Did Mr. Phipps say he received these letters from Mr. Mitford?—*A.* He did.

Q. Though you only take in *The News*, Lady Anne, you might see the morning papers: they are generally laid on the breakfast tables in great families?—*A.* I saw all the papers when at the Princess of Wales's; but none, except *The News*, at my own house—I live very retired.

Q. And you did not cast your eye upon any advertisement respecting the publication of these letters?—*A.* I did not, my lord.

Q. Then you had no idea that Mr. Phipps was about to publish such letters on that day?—*A.* I had not, my lord.

Mr. HOLT.—I have reason to think, my lord, that it was a mere general advertisement, announcing an intended publication of letters, but not stating any reason.

Lord ELLENBOROUGH.—Mr. Phipps, what were the terms of your advertisement?—*A.* I believe they were general, to the best of my recollection.

Mr. ALLEY.—May it please your Lordship—Gentlemen of the Jury,—

On the new evidence which has been adduced, I have a right to make a few observations; but, at this late

hour of the night, I shall not trouble you with many remarks : indeed, I think it would be quite unnecessary, if it were a much earlier hour ; for you, who are men of understanding, who are perfectly competent to decide this case, will not be carried away by any effort of mine,—you will advert solely to the evidence which has this day been examined ; and no one can doubt but that your verdict will be correct.

Gentlemen, if I wanted any assistance to support the case of my client, I have found it in the act of my learned Friend, who called the last witness into the box. And I beg of you to mark the distinction between her evidence and that of Mr. Phipps.—The latter, like the witness of Truth, speaks promptly and decidedly ; the former speaks with hesitation and uncertainty. Would you, Gentlemen, take away the character of an honest man on such testimony. Would you entirely ruin an individual, already much oppressed, on so weak and rotten a foundation ?—One word more, Gentlemen, on a point which fixes the rope round the neck of this prosecution. The witness, Lady Perceval, had the audacity, in that box, to state, that she wrote by Lady Anne Hamilton's desire, the letter to Mr. Phipps, which has been read. What does Lady Anne Hamilton say ? She tells you that it is an impudent and audacious falsehood ; and that the letter was a gross breach of integrity on the part of Lady Perceval. Gentlemen, I shall say no more : I leave it to your good sense to decide, whether such a person can be considered the competent accuser of the good fame and character of another !

Mr. HOLT.—May it please your Lordship—Gentlemen of the Jury,—

At so late an hour of the day, I should be sorry to fatigue you by any observations, except such as arise naturally from the evidence before you : I contend, that the case on

the part of the Crown is unimpeached ; and that the attempt to *defend* perjury is supported on the basis of perjury itself ! My learned Friends have not rebutted the charge, that the Defendant has sworn falsely in his affidavit ; but, by inference, they endeavour to weaken the testimony delivered against him. They put letters and paragraphs into your hands, and tell you, because Lady Perceval wrote them—because she wrote letters, in confidence, to the Defendant, that, therefore, she authorized him to publish these forgeries ! But that this was not the case is shewn by the testimony of Lady Perceval—by the corroborating evidence of three witnesses ; and, more than all, by the confession of the Defendant himself !

Gentlemen, how monstrous would the principle be, if it were tolerated.—How monstrous would it be, if, because I have confidential communications with a person, I must, therefore, be considered as a participator in his evil actions ! Is it a fair or just conclusion, because Lady Perceval employed Mitford to hand paragraphs to a paper (paragraphs which no man laments more than I do), that, merely from this circumstance, she must have been privy to the letters which he gave Phipps to publish ?

Some gentlemen, we recollect, some years ago were tried for high treason, in a neighbouring county* ; it came out in evidence, that a part of them were in communication with some of the most virtuous—some of the best men in society. But, though these individuals were known to have been in correspondence with the accused, no man ever thought of communicating any portion of the infamy of their guilt to persons, whose minds were far as the poles asunder, from a contemplation of a base or wicked action !—Who never even suspected the guilty wishes which were harboured in the hearts of those misguided men !

* Trial of Col. Despard and others, in Surry.

Gentlemen, is not the case of Lady Perceval of a similar kind? It is true, she was in communication with the Defendant, and he took some paragraphs to the papers for her; but is it on this account, that all the subsequent actions, however wild and visionary, however scandalous and improper, of this man, are to be attributed to her?

Gentlemen, the only evidence which my learned Friends have brought forward to meet the case, consists of those kind of inferences and presumptions, drawn from the most slight and unstable premises. If you leave out these, we have nothing but the testimony of Mr. Phipps.—And, Gentlemen, can you believe that man, when his statement is contradicted in every point, by Lady Anne Hamilton. He swore, that the letters were received by him from Mitford, who told him that Lady Perceval had given them to him, and that he stated this to Lady Hamilton.—But she told another story. Her statement was quite different: and imputes to him the blackest perjury! She informs us, that Phipps declared to her, that Mitford stated he had copied these letters in the presence of the Princess of Wales, at Montague-house; that her Royal Highness, by talking, confused him; and therefore he was afraid of some inaccuracies. Did Phipps say, that Mitford observed to him, that he received these letters from Lady Perceval?—No, answers her ladyship; Phipps said that the name of Lady Perceval was not even mentioned in the last conversation with the Defendant. I asked Mr. Phipps whether Mitford really told him, that he received the letters from Lady Perceval when he delivered?—He answered in the affirmative. And the question very naturally followed; if you knew this fact, why did you not say so all along?—Why did you go on, for six or eight weeks, with a different account? He stated, that he did not make the circumstance public from fear! But, Gentlemen, do you think this man can fear anything? If he dared to accuse the Princess of Wales of a knowledge of these letters, must not his assertion,

that he refrained from disclosing a fact, through fear of Lady Perceval, appear completely false ? But I put it to him, and the thing is most evident, that until an injunction was obtained, and not till then, did he talk of accusing Lady Perceval. This, however, is not the only contradiction his evidence has met with from Lady Anne Hamilton.—She has, in fact, contradicted him, sentence by sentence, paragraph by paragraph, through the whole book and volume of his statement. But this single point by itself is, I think, quite sufficient to destroy his testimony. For, can you believe, if he knew that Lady Perceval had given the letters to Mitford, that he would have cooked up the story he had done ; that he would have published, to the world, for some time after, that the Defendant had copied them at Montague-house, and that he was confused at the time, in consequence of the Princess of Wales talking to him ?—It is not to be credited.

This, Gentlemen, is a conspiracy against the *honour* and *character* of Lady Perceval, which was never before even suspected ! Who are those by whom the defence is supported ?—Who is Mr. Phipps ? A man, standing himself under an indictment for a libel, growing out of the same charge !—Is he not then an interested witness, ready, by swearing, to bring the Defendant off, that he may be a pure evidence, for himself, when his own indictment came on to be tried ? Manifestly swearing, as he has done, for that purpose, to what weight is his evidence entitled ? I am, however, glad that he has sworn ; for it has given me an opportunity of directly contradicting him. He told us, when he shewed Lady Anne Hamilton a letter purporting to be written by the Princess of Wales, that she was unable to decide on its authenticity, because her Royal Highness was in the habit of writing twenty different hands.—Lady Hamilton has denied this, most positively. He also gave her another letter, written by Mr. Mitford ; and concluding in this fami-

liar manner, "God bless you—adieu!" Lady Hamilton declares she never saw, never heard of the man in her life. Here Mr. Phipps acknowledges himself to be the bearer of two letters; the one, a vile forgery of the Princess of Wales's writing; the other, an impudent fraud, as it pretended an intimacy with Lady Anne Hamilton, that did not exist.

Gentlemen, I had no other evidence to lay before you than I did, that of Lady Perceval and Lady Anne Hamilton; and I hope you weighed, with the attention they demanded, the circumstances which I have adduced in corroboration of their testimony. You will observe, when Lady Perceval received the letter from Mr. Phipps, she sent Mr. Speechley to inform him, that he had been abused—that he had published forgeries, of which she knew nothing. Gentlemen, the letter she wrote afterwards is not, in my opinion, a proof of guilt; but evidence of a *kind* and *benevolent* disposition. Mr. Phipps says, he received the forged documents from Mitford, who stated, that Lady Perceval gave them to him. Why, if he knew this,—why, if he were informed, that Lady Perceval had sent them, did he not mention it in his letter of Sunday morning? Why did he not observe, "the letters were brought to me, by Mitford; but he had your authority for giving them publicity?"—If this were the fact, why did he not say, when Speechley told him they were forgeries, "You may call them forgeries, if you please; but they came from Lady Perceval, and Mitford told me so?" But, Gentlemen, he said nothing of the kind: he did not even hint anything of this description, until eight weeks after; when an injunction was obtained against the audacious attempts to defame Lady Perceval's character.

Gentlemen, let us pursue Lady Perceval's conduct a little farther. In her letter to Phipps, she says, "You are under a mistake; come down to Perceval-lodge, and the business will soon be settled by a confidential communication." What does she mean by this? *Her* evidence, and Mr.

Phipps's statement, prove, that an audacious forgery had been imposed upon him by Mitford.—What then was the consideration that influenced her to send for Phipps? As she knew that Mitford had had a lapse of mind, she was anxious to put Mr. Phipps on his guard, lest he should be led into some serious error. It was natural she should thus conduct herself towards a person who had supported a cause to which she was herself attached. Besides, she was of course anxious for Mitford, for whom she had before interested herself; and therefore it was that she wished the contradiction, which she insisted should be made in the next papers, to be couched in as delicate terms as possible. She was unwilling to bury, beneath a heap of infamy, an individual whom she had laboured to serve. She also, *for the sake of Mr. Phipps himself*, whom she believed to have been imposed upon, was desirous that the disavowal should be as mild as possible. This, Gentlemen, is the natural and fair construction of the letter which she sent to Mr. Phipps, speaking of the case with which the *rectification* might be made. Some remarks have been ventured on that word—perhaps it is a fashionable term for explanation; but, at all events, I hope Lady Perceval will not suffer because she made use of it casually. I recollect a person having been tried in this Court for the inadvertent use of an expression. He had compared our constitution to a tree; and, pursuing his simile, he observed, that the monarch was the trunk; and the two houses of parliament the two arms. Still carrying on the figure, he maintained, that, if the arms were cut off, the trunk might remain and flourish. The House of Commons indicted him for it.—But, Lord Kenyon said, “Don't let this man fall a sacrifice to a *metaphor*.” And, I say, let not the word *rectification* prejudice Lady Perceval in the present day.

How, then, Gentlemen, does the case stand? Because a few letters and paragraphs have been written by Lady Perceval, are you to suppose that she is guilty of these audacious

forgeries?—If it be so inferred, with whom can we correspond in safety? What clerk, what domestic, can we trust confidentially?—If we write to him a letter, or employ him to carry a paragraph at some subsequent period, though we are far removed from any participation of his guilt, yet the infamy of his actions may be attributed to us!

Gentlemen, I am convinced that Lady Perceval comes into Court this day to seek for justice, and I am confident she will obtain it. A deadly blow is again struck at this family in her ladyship's person!—This is a strong expression, but it is a true one. The blow of an assassin has already deprived the country of one of its members—a man whom we must all recollect with reverence and regret: but, Gentlemen, I am assured, that you will preserve the family honour as clear and as bright as it was left by the illustrious person.

LORD ELLENBOROUGH'S CHARGE TO THE JURY.

LORD ELLENBOROUGH.—Gentlemen of the Jury, in deciding a question of such importance, both to the accuser and the person accused, the Court is not to be carried away by the loudness and violence of declamation. Your duty and mine is, to attend to the proofs adduced in the case, and to see that the declaration contained in the indictment is satisfactorily supported. You have, Gentlemen, heard a vast deal, this day, about the honour and character of a family; but really, I think, if it be contrary to honour and character, if it be against every principle of honest feeling, to be a foul and malicious libeller, then have these panegyrics been very unnecessarily addressed to you. It is here, under the handwriting of this lady, manifestly proved, that she used the unfortunate Defendant, on different occasions, to procure the publication of different articles composed by her. A twelvemonth after he had been in Warburton's mad-house,

this lady corresponds with him ; she urges him to insert this and that in the newspapers ; and when the publishers, from a fear of their personal safety, mutilated one of her productions, she reprobated their conduct, and regretted the absence of that venom, which it was her wish to instil, with no palliative observation but this, that it was not libellous. But, Gentlemen, what right has she to break in upon the comforts of public or private life ? What privilege does she possess to scrutinize the actions of individuals, and select them as the objects of her libels ? For such I say they are. The keenness and malignity of her libels, you can gather from herself ; you have the warrant of her own expressions, in her letter to *Misford*, to guide your opinion ; she is there goading this young man to the publication of libels, from time to time ; therefore to term her a libeller, in this case, is not speaking unreasonably, since the fact is borne out and avowed by her own hand-writing. Gentlemen, the only point for your consideration in this place will be, whether, contrasting her evidence with the circumstances of her conduct, there is a fair and probable ground of inference, that she really acted in the manner stated by the Defendant. The letter, beginning, "*When Nelson was a child,*" gave me, I assure you, more pain and disgust, than I ever recollect to have experienced on the reading of any former production in a court of justice. I was shocked and pained to find so much bitterness—so much unchristian malignity, in the expressions contained in that letter ; which I shall read to you—

" *Monday.*

" *NELSON*, when a child, said—' What is fear ? I never saw it.' *Mr. T.* would not have won the *Battle of the Nile*."

He had not the *courage*, I suppose (observed his lordship), to wring the hearts of his fellow-creatures, as he was requested to do. Her ladyship proceeds—

" Let those fear who espouse a bad cause. *We*, who contend for *Justice*, for the Princess of Wales, and for our future Queen, should not flinch.—Cowards never gained the field. I wish to God Mr. T—— had been any where but *there* just then—and I hope he will have a prosperous voyage ; but *not* a speedy return. I would Mr. M. being a man as he is, of bold and valiant principle—of honourable, energetic, and chivalric feeling, were *alone* Proprietor of his P——. I hate *half* measures, half arguments, half appeals to the public sense and heart ; they never answered yet. Rush upon your enemy, surprise, astound him,—and terror unhorses him !"

These, Gentlemen, are very *masculine* sentiments. The letter goes on—

" I shall be glad if *the abortion* of my letter do good. But it is vexatious when a whole, so complete as it was, connected the one part with the other, to have had it mangled ; and a bit only thrown to the public."

This, however, is something *feminine*—she is speaking of the offspring of her brain, to which, of course, she was very much attached.

" Yesterday was the very day for't.—' The tide-serving moment,' that Shakspeare bids us watch and catch. But what is done cannot be helped.—Another time tho'—*pray no mutilations*—and what Mr. T—— may not have stomach for, may please another's appetite ; and something of lighter digestion can be prepared for him. *I am sure* Mr. M. was truly distressed.—When Mr. T—— goes into the country, will Mr. M. have the power *then* to insert at his pleasure ?"

Mr. M. it appears, is less scrupulous than Mr. T. ; and the absence of the latter is overlooked upon as being favourable to her views.

" It is really cruel to have torn me piecemeal,—for observe how the connection of the parts is destroyed by it."

Now, Gentlemen, that which follows is the *malignant part*, and reflects very great dishonour on the writer.

"How difficult to rejoin this snake, which would so keenly have stung where we intended,—without the venom being libellous. Send me back *my copy*, for I *have none*; and I cannot re-create until I have it—so, without loss of time or post, return it to me, and I will see what I can do. But *promise me*, that if Mr. M. will *not insert it as I send it* (save and except any expression that may be *strictly libellous*; which I am sure nothing in that letter was, which I could alter), *to return it me whole*: for as the cause must not lose for other's squeamishness, it should find its way somehow to the public, but not with *the same signature* as that given to Mr. M——."

Here you see, though she boasts the courage of my Lord Nelson, she appears to look a little to the consequences which would probably attend the publication of a *libel*.

Now, Gentlemen, I own I do not know how you or many persons in this court are constituted; but I confess I heard that letter read with a *great degree of horror*? It pained me to think, that an individual could be found, ready to employ any person in the situation of this unfortunate gentleman, perhaps not perfect in his mind, to assist in disseminating articles of such a nature as those mentioned in the letter; and afterwards to regret, that all their *venomous malignity* had not been preserved. I will leave it to you to judge how far these sentiments are consistent with the feelings of women, or the doctrines of Christianity; I thank God! very few instances of an adherence to such principles are met with. The next point for you to decide upon is, how far the Defendant was employed by Lady Perceval in publishing the letters which appeared on the 4th of April. In the affidavit, which is the foundation of this Indictment, the Defendant swears, that on or about the 31st of March, he was sent for by Lady Perceval, who was at her house, at Blackheath; when he arrived there, Lady Perceval informed him, that

she had letters of great consequence to publish, and that Mr. Phipps appeared to her the man most likely to do her justice. Now, it is not very improbable, that she might suppose he would do them justice, after the fulsome panegyrics she had lavished on his nervous style, his classical manner of conducting his paper, and various other points, couched in praises of the same kind. Besides, there are letters laid before you, which clearly shew a communication between Mr. Phipps and Lady Perceval, commencing so early as six o'clock, on the morning of publication, before any thing had transpired on the subject. Now, it was urged, that Mr. Phipps never thought of imputing these letters to Lady Perceval until an application was made to the Court of Chancery for an injunction, and then, through fear, this charge has been made; but I will read to you the letter which he wrote to Lady Perceval, on the morning of the 4th of April, and I will ask you does it not bear the stamp and character of a communication on a particular subject, of which the writer supposed the party to whom he addressed himself to be conscious?

“MADAM,

“*Sunday Morning, April 4, 1813.*

“I implicitly rely on your ladyship's justice for an excuse, for addressing you unauthorized. My humble tender of what services I might, through the medium of my paper, ‘*The News*,’ be able to render to the sacred and just cause of her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, made a few weeks ago, through Lady Anne Hamilton, arose solely from an earnest wish that my voice, in that cause, might be raised with effect.”

The writer here alludes to the offer he had made some time before of his columns; the answer to which offer was written by Lady Perceval, in the name of Lady Anne Hamilton. The latter now denies it to have been authorized by her, though Lady Perceval declared, it was done with her privity and consent. Mr. Phipps proceeds to say—

" I was wholly animated by that motive,—my situation in life, as well as the dictates of my mind, repel any selfish idea. Having thus premised, I trust your ladyship will excuse my troubling you with a concise detail of the transactions between Mr. Mitford and myself since Thursday last."

Now, unless he was confident that she was *privy* to this business of Mitford's, why should he write to her at all.

" On the evening of Thursday last (continues Mr. Phipps), as late as 10 o'clock, Mr. Mitford delivered into my hands copies of the letters, I have, according to his direction, inserted in *The News* of this day, marked 1, 2, 3, with a desire that I would write some remarks upon them. He did not then mention any wish of taking away those remarks, for the revisal of your ladyship or any other person. On the Friday I wrote some remarks, although it was much later in the week, than I have it in my power in general, consistent with the necessary arrangement of my paper, to insert, *at length*, any original matter. On that day Mr. Mitford called upon me about 4 o'clock, and having read what I had written, he expressed a wish to take it for revisal to Blackheath. To this I could have no other objection than the fear that the papers might not be returned to me, time enough on the Saturday, to publish them in my paper of this day. Here, I am fearful, I may justly incur blame, for not properly impressing this fear on the mind of Mr. Mitford. However, he gave me a solemn promise that the papers should be returned me on the same evening, before 9 o'clock. To convince him that it was absolutely necessary I should then receive them—I informed him I should sit up the whole of the Friday night; and I did sit up the entire night; but, from that moment, I have never seen or heard from him. I say nothing of my feelings or my anxiety during this delay."

The meaning here is evident; it alludes to a person, for the *revisal* of whom the paragraphs were intended, and proves that the two ideas of Lady Perceval and Mr. Mitford were, on this business, associated in the mind of Mr. Phipps. Taken to Blackheath for *revisal*. That very word signifies another examination of something which a party has seen

before ; it points, as it were to something, of which the individual addressed was the author. Now, why should Mitford carry it to Blackheath, if he had not received it there ? This may be said to be the language of Mr. Phipps. But, Gentlemen, it was drawn up early on the morning of the publication, when he wrote with as much indifference as any other person on the subject. Mr. Phipps concludes thus :—

“ I again beg to express a wish, that your ladyship will excuse my present application to you. I am fearful of being thought guilty of any disrespect, or any inattention to orders, which confer honour on my humble exertions : orders, which I am only anxious to receive, to shew my most respectful obedience.”

Now must not this language, which speaks his fear of shewing any disrespect to orders, which confer honour on him, be considered as falling from a man, labouring under a strong impression, at the time he wrote the letter, that Lady Perceval was connected with the publication ? It can, in my mind, bear no other interpretation. Then what becomes of the idea, that Mr. Phipps never harboured a thought of Lady Perceval being at all acquainted with the transaction, till, at a much later time, when other publications had taken place ; and, on information having been moved for against him, the Defendant, in the present case, swore, that Lady Perceval had desired him to carry the letters to Mr. Phipps, observing, that the experiment was a dangerous one, but something must be done to compel them to grant a proper establishment to the Princess of Wales ; and that the publication would, no doubt, have that effect. That he then copied the three letters from the handwriting of Lady Perceval, which purported to be signed by the Lord Chancellor, the Earl of Liverpool, Lord Castlereagh, and Lady Anne Hamilton, all of them relating to the

establishment of the Princess of Wales? Now, the real question for you, Gentlemen, to try is, whether the Defendant copied these letters from an original manuscript, written by Lady Perceval? And here it will be right to bear in mind, that several letters have been put in, which, according to the evidence of Mr. Phipps, Lady Perceval was most anxious to get back into her possession. It certainly was a desirable thing for her to recover letters and papers of such a description; it was natural she should be desirous of obtaining them; because they might, her hand-writing being proved, subject her to criminal prosecutions. But she disseminated her paragraphs, it appears, by the hands of this unfortunate gentleman, the Defendant. She selected him for this purpose; either, because, from the state of his understanding, she thought it would be less dangerous for him to act in the business, or because she wished to shield herself in utter darkness: for, if she had been as fearless as (using the language of Lord Nelson), she said she was, she would not have sought an agent; she would have acted for herself; she would have gone with her writings; she would not have made use of the instrumentality of this unfortunate man. To what, Gentlemen, can you attribute the visits, early and late, made by Lady Perceval to the Defendant and his wife? Do you think it was *charity* that called upon her to go to their lodgings, without her carriage? But she stated, that the streets were not paved, as a reason for proceeding on foot; and yet, when I ask her whether her servant attended her on these excursions, she could scarcely call the fact to mind. What, then, I ask you, could those visits relate to, but to that which her acknowledged letters speak of? By that subject she had electrified the shattered understanding of this unfortunate man, and had induced him to give circulation to the venom which she herself had concocted. Under these circumstances, looking simply to the conduct of those concerned in the case, seeing this lady anxious to pub-

lish libels, by the agency of the Defendant, a fact that cannot be controverted, surely it is not at all unnatural to suppose that she may be the author of other libels, intended to effect the same purpose. With respect to the particular points on which the perjury is assigned, not an individual has spoken to them but Lady Perceval herself. All the rest of the evidence, on the part of the prosecution, relates to circumstances which are said to have occurred since the publication of the 4th of April. Of these, the strongest is the conduct of this young man himself, who has been represented as proceeding to town from Blackheath, ashamed and afflicted at what he had done. He is described as having thrown himself on his bed, in great anguish of mind, exclaiming, that he was dishonoured, and his reputation gone. But why, if he had been the projector of the forgeries, did Lady Perceval send for him? Why did she seek the return of a man so dangerous as she represented him to be? Why did she, on the Wednesday evening, cause him to be brought to her own house, where he threw himself on the bed of Mr. Perceval? It seems, when questioned at his own lodging, that he talked of a bribe; but no one heard what that bribe consisted of. He had, it seems, threatened to publish all their names; but it did not appear to whom this all referred. Gentlemen, this looks like the conduct of a frantic man, as he is stated to have been. But the affidavit was sworn on the 23d of June; and, if he had been disordered in his mind, in April, he might by that time have recovered. He then declared that he had been at Blackheath, that he had there got the letters, and carried them—where? why, to that very paper, which Lady Perceval had been perfuming: to the very place where she should be most likely to send them, if she sent them at all.—Then, Gentlemen, you have the evidence of Mr. Phipps, who has deposed to conversations with Lady Perceval and Lady Anne Hamilton, who have both denied a part of his statement.—Lady Hamilton swears, that he never

mentioned Lady Perceval as the person through whom Mitford received the letters. It is for you, Gentlemen, to decide on this conflicting testimony. But it is most clear, that the belief of Mr. Phipps, as to Lady Perceval's having written the letters, was not an after-thought. For, at six o'clock in the morning of the 4th of April, he addresses her on the subject, confidentially. Why, Gentlemen, would he think of sending the matter to Blackheath for revision, if it had never been there before?—Gentlemen, I think it is scarcely necessary for me to go through this immense mass of evidence,—

[Here the Foreman of the Jury interrupted his lordship.—They were, he observed, perfectly satisfied: and a verdict of **NOT GUILTY** was immediately returned—which was received with evident marks of satisfaction by a very crowded Court. The Trial commenced at half-past nine in the morning; and was not terminated till half-after six in the evening.]

IN the above extraordinary case, Mr. VINES, of *Stone Buildings, Lincoln's Inn*, was the Attorney for the Prosecution: Mr. MANNING, of *Clement's Inn*, for the Defendant.

APPENDIX.

No. I.

" Lady Viscountess Perceval requests Mr. Phipps will send her, regularly, his weekly paper, *The News*, particularly the one of this day, which includes the interesting and well-made observations on the Letter of her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales.

" 27, Curzon-street,

" Sunday, 14th Feb.

" ——— Phipps, Esq.

" *The News* Office, Brydges-street,

" Strand."

No. II.

" Lady Anne Hamilton requests that Mr. Phipps will direct his paper, *The News*, to be regularly sent to her, No. 4, Manchester-street; and Lady Anne particularly begs that this day's *News* may be sent there without delay.

" Sunday, 14th Feb.

" ——— Phipps, Esq.

" *The News* Office, Brydges-street,

" Strand."

No. III.

" Mr. Phipps is requested to send down his last and his present Sunday's paper, and those which will be published touching the interesting cause now agitating, addressed to John Teed,

Esq. M. P. at Richard Phillips, Esq. Surgeon, &c. Bridge-water.

“ And place these numbers to Lady Perceval's account.

“ Curzon-street, Feb. 21st.

“ ——— Phipps, Esq.

“ *News* Office, Brydges-street, Strand.”

No. IV.

“ Monday, March 15, 1813.

“ Mr. Phipps, the Editor and Proprietor of *The News*, presents his profound respects to Lady Anne Hamilton. He trusts to her wonted goodness to excuse the liberty he thus takes of addressing her. Entirely influenced by a sense of duty, he, as a Newspaper Proprietor, owes to the public, who liberally pay him, Mr. Phipps has presumed in a very sincere, if not an able manner, to espouse a cause, which he truly laments requires the exertions of any advocate. In thus performing what he conceives his indispensable duty, he, however, labours under a deficiency of information, which not only paralyzes his efforts, but he fears sometimes leads him into errors injurious to the illustrious lady he endeavours to defend. On this subject, therefore, he presumes to address Lady Anne Hamilton, and in the most respectful manner to offer the columns of his paper for the insertion of any thing which may, in any shape, tend to repel the infamous slanders in circulation.

“ Mr. Phipps begs to add, that he has no connection, nor ever had, with any political party, or with any public political person—that his character for honour and integrity will bear the strictest investigation—and that he is the sole editor and proprietor of his paper, writing and selecting every thing in it. He also presumes to say, that his motives to this address are pure and honourable, and simply occasioned by an earnest desire of raising his feeble voice with some effect in the cause of a much-injured lady.

" Mr. Phipps has the gratification of stating to Lady Anne Hamilton, that such is the popularity of the part he has thought it his duty to take in this affair, that the circulation of his paper, which four weeks ago was about 7000, is now increased to 8,900."

No. V.

" * Lady Anne Hamilton's compliments to Mr. Phipps, and at the same time that she must express her admiring approbation of the pertinent energetic reasoning and classical style of his paper, acknowledges herself exceedingly gratified by Mr. Phipps's loyal, zealous, and disinterested offer of his independent columns towards advocating the sacred, just, and illustrious cause of her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, against her conspiring adversaries.

" Manchester-street, March 18.

" (Private.)

" ——— Phipps, Esq.

" The News Office, Brydges-street,

" Strand."

* It was contended by the Plaintiff's Counsel on the late trial, that this letter is *not* an acceptance of the offer I had made of the columns of my paper. It is certainly written in a very guarded manner—in a manner quite consistent with the fear Lady Perceval always entertained of putting any thing in the printer's hands, which might, on a future occasion, be turned against her. If, however, it is not *an acceptance*, no one can maintain that it is a *refusal*. It should be borne in mind, that it was brought by Mitford, who was instructed *verbally* to communicate that information the letter is deficient in.—*EXIT.*

No. VI.

Thursday Morning, 9 o'Clock.

Dear Sir,

" I write in a hurry.—Should the packet alluded to by me last night, arrive,—take no steps upon it until I come. The following extract will explain my reasons:

" *' The death of the Duchess of Brunswick renders it decorously necessary, that the publication of the Letters should be deferred for a short time. '* "

" Again,—

" *' I hope that the Sunday remarks of The News, will do us a week's good. As you say you can rely on Mr. P., he shall be our avant courier in future: you must stick close to him, and keep his spirits alive: give him Manby, &c. '* "

" I think I shall call about 4. I have written for a copy of the evidence of Mrs. L. which I trust will be in time. Truly yours,

" JOHN MITFORD.

" Mr. Phipps, Editor of *The News*,

" Brydges-street, Covent-garden."

To be delivered immediately.

VII.

" Two days after the death of her Royal Highness the Duchess of Brunswick, Lady Charlotte Lindsay, the lady in waiting upon her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, received two letters by the two-penny post, the one from the Countess of Macclesfield, on the part of the Queen, and the other from the Dowager Countess of Rosslyn on the part of the Princesses—mere formal letters of inquiry after the Princess of Wales. And this is all the notice that her majesty and the princesses

have taken of the Princess of Wales upon the melancholy event of the sudden death of her mother."

" And on the very same day, as the Princess of Wales was sitting with Lady Charlotte Lindsey and Lady Charlotte Campbell, at her luncheon, a paper, folded in the form of a petition, was brought to her royal highness. Her royal highness incautiously opened it, when, to her utter astonishment, she discovered it to contain the copy of the will of her royal mother, which the lord chancellor, as one of the executors of her late royal highness, had sent to her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, by the servant of Mr. Le Blanc, the Duchess of Brunswick's solicitor. Nothing accompanied this paper of importance, except a note from Mr. Le Blanc to the Princess of Wales, purporting that he was directed by the Lord Chancellor to send her royal highness a copy of her Royal Highness the late Duchess of Brunswick's will."

No. VIII.

" Dear Madam,

" I have now waited until seven. When the letter arrives, Mr. Phipps will send you this, with some remark he may deem necessary on the occasion.

" I leave this in case you have left Abingdon-street.

" God bless you !

" Adieu !

" JOHN MITFORD."

" Right Hon. Lady Anne Hamilton,

" No. 16, Abingdon-street*,

" Westminster."

* There is a great deal to come out respecting this house. The ostensible occupier was a man of the name of Land, who had been a butcher at Greenwich, and in that capacity had served both Montague House and Perceval Lodge with meat. Its proximity to the two houses of parliament I fancy occasioned it to be taken.—EDIT.

No. IX.

"Sir,

"I am obliged by your attention, and beg you to thank Mr. Phipps, in my name, for his exertion.

"Pray attend me in the morning.

"C. P."

"Monday Evening.

"Mr. John Ailford."

No. X.

"Sunday Morning, April 4, 1813.

"Madam,

"I implicitly rely on your ladyship's justice for an excuse for addressing you unauthorised*. My humble tender of what services I might, through the medium of my paper, *The News*, be able to render to the sacred and just cause of her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, made a few weeks ago, through Lady Anne Hamilton, arose solely from an earnest wish that my voice, in that cause, might be raised with effect.—I was wholly animated by that motive,—my situation in life, as well as the dictates of my mind, repel any selfish idea. Having thus premised, I trust your ladyship will excuse my troubling you with a concise detail of the transactions between Mr. Mitford and myself since Thursday last.

"On the evening of Thursday last, as late as 10 o'clock, Mr. Mitford delivered into my hands, copies of the letters, I have, according to his direction, inserted in *The News* of this day, marked 1, 2, 3, with a desire that I would write some remarks

* The word "unauthorised" here, merely refers to my having been assured by Mr. Mitford, that he was the medium through which I was to receive what communications it was considered proper to make public on the part of her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales. Nothing less than the abandonment of Mr. Mitford would have made me presume to address Lady Perceval.—EDIT.

upon them. He did not then mention any wish of taking away those remarks for the revisal of your ladyship or any other person. On the Friday I wrote those remarks, although it was much later in the week than I have it in my power in general, consistent with the necessary arrangement of my paper, to insert *at length* any original matter. On that day, Mr. Mitford called upon me about four o'clock, and having read what I had written, he expressed a wish to take it for revisal to Blackheath. To this I could have no other objection than the fear that the papers might not be returned to me time enough, on the Saturday, to publish them in my paper of this day. Here, I am fearful I may justly incur blame, for not properly impressing this fear on the mind of Mr. Mitford: however, he gave me a solemn promise that the papers should be returned to me on the same evening, before nine o'clock. To convince him that it was absolutely necessary I should then receive them, I informed him I should sit up the whole of the Friday night, and I did sit up the entire night, but from that moment I have never seen or heard from him. I say nothing of my feelings or my anxiety during this delay,—they may be appreciated, when I state to your ladyship, that owing to the great number of my paper, one part goes to press as early as three o'clock on Saturday morning, another about nine o'clock, another about two o'clock, and the last about six o'clock. To make room for the manuscript taken away by Mr. Mitford, I had, at much inconvenience, discarded matter of some importance; and, at five o'clock last night, I was left with my whole composing room standing still, waiting for his promised return. In that situation I had no remedy than from recollection, to re-write what I had given that gentleman. This, I anxiously hope, will form my excuse for any inaccuracy in the observations in my paper of this week.

“I again beg to express a wish that your ladyship will excuse my present application to you. I am fearful of being thought guilty of any disrespect, or any inattention to orders which con-

fer honour on my humble exertions; orders, which I am only anxious to receive, to shew my most respectful obedience.

“ I have the honour to subscribe myself,

“ Madam,

“ Your ladyship's most humble servant,

“ T. A. PHIPPS.”

No. XI.

“ Dartmouth-row, Blackheath,

Sunday, April 4th.

“ Sir,

“ Since I requested Mr. Speechley to wait upon you this morning, in consequence of your letter, and *the mistake* which appears to have occurred, I much wish that, if not very inconvenient, you would favour me with an interview at my house here, *as soon after your receiving this as may suit you*. I believe, by conferring with you CONFIDENTIALLY for a few minutes, the rectification can be best arranged.

“ I am, Sir, your's, &c. &c.

“ (*Private.*)

“ B. P.

“ ——— Phipps, Esq.

“ News Office, Brydges-street, Strand.”

No. XII.

“ News Office, Sunday Evening, Ten

“ Madam,

o'Clock, April, 4, 1813.

“ Immediately on my return to town, I deemed it my indispensable duty to consult a friend on the subject of my conference with your ladyship this morning. His advice is peremptory—that my honour—my reputation,—every thing that is dear to me, compel me to have no concealments with the public, whom I have been made instrumental in grossly deceiving. This is also the result of cool reflection; I therefore respectfully state to your ladyship, that unless Mr. Mitford immediately comes forward, and avows the part he has had in the

business, for the purpose of my justification, I shall be under the painful necessity, in my next Sunday's publication, of entering into a full explanation of the whole affair. My part in this transaction will be to me most painful,—but it must be performed, if any contradiction appears in the public papers of what I have inserted in *The News* of this day.

“ I have the honour to subscribe myself, &c. &c.

“ T. A. PHIPPS.”

No. XIII.

“ *To the Editor of The Morning Chronicle.*”

“ Sir.—The publication in his paper of this day, by the Editor of *The News*, induces me to request you will be pleased to insert in your paper of to-morrow, the copy of a letter which I addressed to that gentleman, and which was delivered at the office of *The News* late on Friday night. I have only to add, that the Editor of *The News* has been informed that the letters in his possession, alleged to be letters in the hand-writing of the Princess of Wales, are positively forged; as well as the letters purporting to be signed by the Lord Chancellor, Lord Liverpool, and Lord Castlereagh; and the answer, purporting to be signed by Lady Anne Hamilton. It is unnecessary to state, that Mr. *Mitford's* unhappy situation absolves him from all criminality respecting these papers, as well as those which are referred to in my letter to the Editor of *The News*, (now in my possession,) the fabrications of Mr. *Mitford's* disordered fancy.

“ I am your obedient servant,

“ Temple, April 11.”

“ F. L. HOLT.”

No. XIV.

“ Sir,

“ In consequence of an advertisement which appeared in some of the daily papers, announcing your intention of publishing in

your paper of Sunday next, certain letters and communications from Lady Anne Hamilton, Lady Perceval, and Mr. Mitford, nephew to Lord Redeadale, I was desired to call at your office on Thursday last, for the purpose of acquainting you, that whatever communications you had received from Mr. Mitford, were entirely the invention of the disordered imagination of that unfortunate gentleman; and that the letters published in your paper of Sunday last, as well as other papers said to be in your possession by the means of Mr. Mitford, are forgeries. I was also directed to state to you, that Mr. Mitford is entirely unknown to her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales personally, or by any mode of communication; and that her Royal Highness had not any knowledge of any matter inserted in your paper. Dr. Warburton attended with me for the purpose of confirming to you the account of Mr. Mitford's situation, which is such as to divest him of all responsibility for his own actions. He had been prematurely removed from the care of Dr. Warburton, about seven weeks ago, and has again been placed under Dr. Warburton's control. His extravagancies have not been confined to the impositions practised upon your paper. I have now before me various letters and minutes of conversations on the same subject, given by Mr. Mitford to a friend of mine, alleged to have been addressed to him, under a feigned name, and to have been holden with him by gentlemen of respectability, whom he probably never saw; appointing interviews, and offering rewards for the disclosure of secrets which had no existence, and relating discourses between other parties, which it has been ascertained never took place*. As I had not the good fortune to see you at either of the times when I called upon you, I have thought it proper to give you this circumstantial detail in writing, lest there should have been any misunderstanding or mistake in the verbal communication to you, which will have been

* It is singular that Mr. Holt produced none of these on the late trial.
—Edit.

the consequence of mine and Dr. Warburton's visits at your office, from the persons whom I saw there.

"I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

" Temple, April 9.

" F. L. HOLT."

" To the Editor of *The News*."

No. XV.

" Sir,

" Wednesday.

" I did not see *The News* of last Sunday until yesterday morning. I was not permitted to have any communication with any person—until this day, when I effected my *escape* from an *unjust* and *unauthorized* confinement.

" I am so situated that I have little more time than to say, that there are some parts of your paper I do not comprehend, but in the principal points you are correct.

" I have been allowed, during my confinement, to write *one letter, dictated to me**, and that was all.

" I have seized the momentary advantage of my liberty to write to one or more of the papers—*The Herald* in particular,—you shall hear from me when I am forty miles from town, where I shall halt.

" Truly your's,

" JOHN MITFORD."

" Mr. Phipps,

" Proprietor of *The News*."

* Mr. Mitford once informed me, that he had been induced to write some kind of acknowledgment, that he was the author of the forged letters; but that the letter, which contained that acknowledgment, referred to some circumstances not expedient to be made public; and, therefore, that Lady Perceval would never dare to make any use of it against him. I only state what he once mentioned. When I reflect on the species of mental and corporeal bondage, in which Lady Perceval kept this unfortunate gentleman, I certainly should feel no surprise at any thing he *said* or *wrote*, in the interval between the 4th of April and the 19th, the day I first saw him after the publication of the forged letters. On the trial, nothing in his hand-writing was offered to be produced.—*Edit.*

No. XVI.

"Dear Sir,

"I have not been three hours from the country; my fortitude cannot bear to be thus lacerated by the scissars of a woman.

"I much wish to see you this evening.

"Your's, faithfully,

"Mr. Phipps."

"JOHN MITFORD."

(No date.)

No. XVII.

The following were Lady Anne Hamilton's remarks on my appeal to the public, inserted by her order in *The Morning Chronicle*. Many of them are quite irrelevant. I never asserted, that her ladyship ever wrote to me except through the *medium* of Lady Perceval, nor did I ever say, that she at any time either saw or wrote to Mr. Mitford. One point *alone* of my previous statement does she deny—that respecting the *carte blanche*. My assertion of her inability decisively to pronounce whether the letters were forgeries, she avoids noticing; and my subsequent statement of the Princess of Wales being in the habit of writing twenty different hands, she never publicly contradicted until the late trial.—*Edit.*

"In consequence of some publications in *The News*, and comments upon them in other papers, we have authority to state—that Lady Anne Hamilton never wrote a line to Mr. Phipps in her life. That she never authorized Lady Perceval to write to him, but upon the two occasions mentioned in his paper (*The News*) of Sunday last—the one to order his paper to be sent to her—the other civilly to decline the offer he had made her of his columns; and that she never saw either of those letters till they were published*.

* It is singular that Lady Anne did not at this time disavow the letter Lady Perceval wrote in her name to me; she did so distinctly on the trial.—*Edit.*

" We have authority to state further, that Lady Anne Hamilton never gave Lady Perceval 'authority to make use of her 'name in whatever concerned the Princess of Wales;' nor has she ever asserted or admitted, in any way, or to any person, that she had so done; and that Lady Perceval herself disclaims ever having received or exercised such authority.

" That Mr. Phipps was 'immediately admitted' (as he states) when he called at Lady Anne Hamilton's house, on Sunday the 4th instant, in consequence of her supposing him to be Mr. Phipps, the oculist; nor after the discovery of this mistake, did she know who he was, till he proclaimed himself the editor of *The News*.

" That Lady Anne Hamilton never saw Mr. Mitford, nor wrote to him, nor received a line from him, nor ever had any communication with him in any way."

LADY PERCEVAL'S LETTERS.

No. XVIII.

" Monday."

" Nelson, when a child, said—' What is fear? I never saw it.' Mr. T.* would not have won the battle of the Nile. Let those fear who espouse a bad cause. *We* who contend for justice for the Princess of Wales, and for our future QUEEN, should not flinch—Cowards never gained the field. I wish to God, Mr. T—— had been any where but *there* just then—and I hope he will have a prosperous voyage, but *not* a speedy return. I

* Mr. T—— means Mr. Tulloch, one of the proprietors of *The Star* evening newspaper,—a paper at that time much favoured by Lady Perceval's political lucubrations, but afterwards turned off on account of the squeamishness and want of spirit in its proprietors.

would Mr. M.* being a man, as he is, of bold and valiant principle—of honourable, energetic, and chivalric feeling, were *alone* proprietor of his P——. I hate *half* measures, half arguments, half appeals to the public sense and heart: they never answered yet. Rush upon your enemy—surprise, astound him—and terror unhorses him!

“I shall be glad if *the abortion* of my letter do good;—but it is vexatious when a whole, so complete as it was, connected the one part with the other, to have had it mangled—and a bit only thrown to the public.

“Yesterday was the very day for it—‘the tide-serving moment’—that Shakspeare bids us watch and catch.—But what is done cannot be helped—Another time tho’—*pray, no mutilations*—and what Mr. T—— may not have stomach for, may please another’s appetite; and something of lighter digestion can be prepared for him.——I am sure Mr. M. was truly distressed.—When Mr. T—— goes into the country, will Mr. M. have the power then, to insert at his pleasure? It is really cruel to have torn me piecemeal—for observe how the connection of the parts is destroyed by it—How difficult to rejoin this snake, which would so keenly have stung where we intended—without the venom being libellous. Send me back my copy, for I have none, and I cannot re-create until I have it—so, without loss of time or post, return it to me, and I will see what I can do. But promise me that if Mr. M. will not insert it as I send it (save and except any expression that may be strictly libellous,—which I am sure none in that letter was,—which I could alter) to return it me whole: for as the cause must not lose for other’s squeamishness, it should find its way somehow to the public—but not with the same signature as that given to Mr. M——.

“Write to me constantly—your minutes of J. Ball’s conversations were pleasing†, and Holyrood House remark very well.

* Mr. M——, Mr. Mayne, one of the minor proprietors of the same paper—not possessing the power over its insertions which Mr. Tulloch had.

† These and Holyrood House remark, were articles written in favour of the Princess of Wales by Mr. Mitford, and which appeared in *The Star*.

—If you should come down, go to Bridgewater House, send a note to me, enclosed to Lady Anne Hamilton* from thence.

“Your’s, B. P.”

Address—

“John Mitford, Esq.

“Crawford Street,

“Montague Square,

“London.

“Monday, 4 o’clock.”

“[To be delivered this evening.]”

No. XIX.

Copy of “*the abortion*,” alluded to by Lady Perceval, in No. 18.

(From *The Star* of Feb. 22.)

“*To the Editor of The Star*†.

“England asks, and England expects to be answered, whether during the recent, and we fear continued indisposition of the Princess Charlotte of Wales—severe enough to require the attendance of physicians, not only was and is her Royal Mother left unsolicited to visit her beloved and loving child, deprived by the illness of the rarely-granted comfort of intercourse with her August Parent, but refused even the privilege of access to her?

I am, &c. &c.

“JUSTITIA.”

* The date of Lady Anne Hamilton’s *trimming* letter to Lord Liverpool, was Feb. 15th. Her Ladyship was, therefore, in waiting on the date of this letter, which, by the post-mark upon it, appears to have been sent the 23d of the same month. This circumstance renders Lady Anne Hamilton’s declaration on the trial, “that she knew *nothing* of Lady Perceval’s newspaper connections,” very singular.

† On this letter I shall merely observe, that I would not wish to hurt the feelings of any Lady Authoress—much less one of Viscountess Perceval’s high rank; but if the letter of *Justitia* ever did contain any thing resembling common sense, the Editor of *The Star* must have been clever indeed, to have reduced it to its present form.—*Edit.*

No. XX.

“ Sunday.

“ I write this in case you should disappoint me again and again—though I hope not; for it is of the utmost importance, I repeat, to both *our* agency and *our* chivalric cause*, that you should not leave me so ignorant, &c. &c. Besides, you were to have brought me the letters for Mr. Downes, inclosing the paper I wanted to send to him on *my money businesses*. Next place, I want the paragraph about Billy Austin, for I suppose Mr. M—— does not wish to insert it, as he has not:—On the contrary, I observe in the paper of last night, an allusion and extract upon the same subject—but *very tame* and *inefficient*. I would, therefore, *wish you to bring it back to me*, that I may do what I like with it, and make some use of it. I would also be glad of the other scrap, about ‘ God save the K——.’ I beg you will get possession back of the copy of the letter printed, which was written in large hand. I do not send the other which is ready,—because, since Mr. M—— has not liked Billy A——, he will not, perhaps, like this; and if I do not see, or hear from you, I always fear accidents, people changing their feelings, &c. I do expect that now is *the moment of the tide serving* for our cause. John Bull’s *heart is her’s*, and his eyes are opened; and we must hope that, if Englishmen could championize Mrs. Clarke, the P——, against the king’s son,—very unjustly, and to their discredit, I ever thought,—those same Englishmen will at heart defend and protect their old king’s niece and their young queen elect’s mother.—Do, pray, answer this note, unless I shall have seen you;—at all events send me Downe’s letter and Billy A——.

“ I do not suppose you will let me leave town without seeing you. Can you come this evening—between ten and twelve o’clock—you will find me returned from Fulham.

“ If Mr. M. will choose another letter for to-morrow’s paper,

* The conspiracy which Lady Perceval and her agent were carrying on against the peace of the kingdom, is most clearly proved by this letter. She talks of *our* agency and *our* cause. What cause, even if a good one, could be other than *ruined* by such an agent.—EDIT.

come and say so; but I do not send it without being certain it will be accepted.

"I can put Billy A—— in the form of a letter—for I much wish that it should be in. The paragraph last night called forth not an atom of warm feeling. Such benevolence as that of the person in question, should be known, and not be misrepresented.

"Your's.

Addressed—

"John Mitford, Esq."

No. XXI.

"Where is the copy for the L——, for I suppose you will send it now. I have had no *Stars* as you promised me last night. Pray bring some to-morrow to where I am going, and send in word a gentleman has called on Lady P——*. You may come down this evening, if you can, to tell me all that passed since. I am going at 5 o'clock. Be here before, if you can. I must see you before Monday. When is the other letter to be in? I can assure you we must work them well†. If M. does not like to put it in, I wish you would withdraw it, that I may send it elsewhere. M., neglects, I think, the cause.

"The inclosed is written for a shew letter if you choose to use it as such‡. It is a fact that I have done what I therein say, and great circulation will it give it."

* Montague house was, I have been informed, the place where she was going.—*Edit.*

† This expression shews the bitter spirit which, throughout the whole of this business, appears to have animated this *Machieval in petticoats*.—*Edit.*

‡ For this letter, which may serve for a model of its kind, see No. XXII.

No. XXII.

[This letter is alluded to in the preceding, and is a good specimen of the talent displayed by Lady Perceval in her management of the Editors of newspapers. Her Ladyship calls it—"A Shew Letter;" that is, a letter written expressly for the purpose of being shewn to a particular person, to attain a particular object. Mr. Mayne, one of the proprietors of *The Star*, was the gentleman here aimed at. Mr. Tulloch, the other proprietor, however, prevented the dose from taking effect.]

"My dear Sir,

"I have seldom received more satisfaction than from your letter. It does one so much good in these times (when the *chivalric* principle, alas! is so grievously exploded) to meet with those kindred souls who *will* sympathize in the cause of woman, as Milton says, 'the last, and best, fairest work of the creation.' *The illustrious one** in question, I do assure you should not be the least nor the last in our dear love, for she possesses a heart and mind purely emanating from the great Duke of Brunswick. I can best express myself when I say, that when I am near her I am all soul. I never knew any one who had so much the magic of communicating incitement to all that is great and good†. May the people of England duly estimate her worth. Heaven be praised, the Pss. Charlotte of Wales knows her mother's worth, and *her best quality*, that which will bring prosperity to her future realm—is her filial love. I admire and applaud Mr. M.'s sentiments and emotions‡, and I feel him to be

* Lady Perceval here directly identifies herself with the Princess of Wales, on what authority it behoves her *publicly* to explain.—*Edit.*

† It is evident the writer of this letter must have found flattery most efficacious in the course of her intrigues, for she never fails dealing it out most plentifully; no matter whether directed towards a *princess* or a *vulgar black-handed printer*,—both have a sickening dose administered to them.—*Edit.*

‡ Lady Perceval will perhaps condescend to explain what she meant by Mr. Mayne's "*emotions*." Were they of a corporeal or mental nature?—*Edit.*

a congenial spirit with myself; assure him that, considering him as such, every nerve of my zeal shall be exerted to befriend *our Carolinean star*, which must never grow dim*. Be it understood, however, that I am *no disaffected subject*†. Loyalist, I am, to my latest breath, and never, I trust, will *a Perceval* desert his Sovereign. My dear and only son will, I trust, tread in the steps of his ancestors, and lamented great uncle. If, by sounding the public opinion in measured respectful language‡, in the *P. R. ear*, we can make him understand his best interests, and the *secret* of his want of popularity, my object is obtained§. Let him set the example of respect to domestic propriety, and John Bull will worship him. I wish *him* as popular as I know his Princess to be, and deservedly so; for I consider them both|| as composing *the third estate of the realm*, and as such *respect* the Prince, but *love* the Princess. Can you some day bring young Mayne with you; you know how I am the friend of youth that has honourable and aspiring mind. I will send to-

* Such were the promises this *intrigante* was accustomed to hold out to those she hoped would aid her in her political schemes.—*Edit.*

† It was very necessary for Lady Perceval to make this assertion.—Had she not made it, Mr. Mayne must have thought he was corresponding with a female plotter, who, to attain her ends, would have set the nation in a flame.—*Edit.*

‡ The wide difference in opinion which exists between the Lord Chief Justice of England and Lady Perceval, as to what constitutes “measured respectful language,” is well worthy of remark.—*Edit.*

§ How infinitely indebted his Royal Highness must ever feel to Lady Perceval, for her tender solicitude for his popularity.—*Edit.*

|| This female politician’s principles are truly constitutional. She considers them *both* as composing the third estate of the realm. Perhaps she will condescend to explain what *portion* of the government the wife of the sovereign is entitled to by the laws of England. Undoubtedly, were that wife assisted by the talents of Lady Perceval, it would be hard indeed if she did not appropriate to herself much more than of right, or of courtesy belonged to her.—*Edit.*

morrow to the office, but if I receive the papers not in time, they will be forwarded to me.

“ Take care of yourself, and believe me,

“ Your zealous friend, and sincere cousin,

“ Dec. 30, 1812.”

“ B. PERCEVAL.”

The letter enclosing this, is addressed,

“ John Mitford, Esq.

“ 69, Crawford-street, Montague-square.”

No. XXIII.

“ Instead of sending *my servant* to the Star Office, where inquiries and observations would be made, or at least might, pray do you send in *your name**, or request Mr. M. to enclose them to me, addressed, by the first Greenwich coach, as follows:

“ Viscountess Perceval,

“ To be left at Mr. Land's,

“ Crescent, Greenwich.

“ To be delivered directly.

“ From thence the parcel will be sent to me at Bridgewater-house†, of course they will put the date on the outside, and book it.

“ I have the greatest delight in Mr. M.'s declaration and profession of faith; I hope *he will never change his religion*. I long to hear how my letter to you worked‡. Let me have a

* Here the cloven foot appears:—“ pray do you send in *your name*, for if I send in *mine*, some observations might be made.” “ *Veritas nihil veretur nisi abscondi*.” This was not the case with Lady Perceval; she courted concealment.—EDIT.

† Bridgewater House, to which reference is here made, is a seminary for young ladies, at the village of Lee. It is kept by a Mr. and the two Misses Grimini's, and patronized by Viscountess Perceval. Before her Ladyship took the house she now lives in, which she has christened “Perceval Lodge,” Bridgewater House was *head-quarters*.—Edit.

‡ This referred to the *shew* letter.—Edit.

ticket porter to Curzon-street (which will accompany my other letters to Lee) to detail all that passed betwixt you.

"I beg you and Mrs. Mitford will drink to my son's health and glory in the political career, on Sunday next, the 3d, his birth-day.

"Tell Mr. M. that I trust, some six or seven years hence, *The Star* will have to brighten its columns with the next Lord Perceval's eloquence and virtues*. In Scotland he will learn to drink deep of science, &c.

"Believe me, your sincere friend,

"B. P."

"I have been lucky enough to find a perfect copy of Ford's Polybius, *with the plans*. I made it mine. So now we may proceed. It has never been translated into English.

"Wednesday night.

"If you can come to me by eleven o'clock to-morrow, I can spare you some minutes; and pray take a coach. I must pay for it, since it is by my desire. You must not be accompanied.

Addressed—

"John Mitford, Esq.

"Craufurd-street, Montague-square."

* Here is a direct allusion to her son's future greatness. As to his virtue I can say nothing. He comes of a very virtuous stock, and therefore I suppose he will be virtuous. Of his eloquence, those who heard him on the late trial may form a very good opinion. He will, however, have occasion to drink copiously of the fountain of science before the columns of *The Star* are brightened by his speeches —*Edit.*

† Mr. Mitford has informed me that he is many pounds out of pocket for coach-hire, ticket porters, and postage of letters,—it not being uncommon for him to be favoured with three and four of the latter *per diem*. According to his account, Lady Perceval was by no means liberal in her pecuniary disbursements to him, although it is evident she worked him like a pack-horse. Deficiencies in her Ladyship's larder and wine cellar have often been the subject of his complaints —*Edit.*

No. XXIV.

“ Sunday, March 7.

“ It is very singular that since my son left you at the coffee-house*, Friday evening, I have neither heard of you or seen you. No papers; no insertion—By which therefore (if it is that there is no insertion) of either the Remarks, or the letter of *Interrogator*, that your friend Mr. M. does not mean or wish to insert either, he had much better have candidly said this from the first. I must desire, therefore, that without fail, you bring back *both* the manuscript of the Remarks and that of the Letter; both are absolutely necessary for publication for *the cause*. You may say, from your friend, to Mr. M. that since he and Mr. T. object to its insertion, and delay it day after day, your friend directs you to return both immediately.

“ I hope you have not forgotten about to-morrow’s noon, and will not suffer delays *upon that point*. You understand my allusion†?

“ You must not come to where I am now‡, but to the Green

* This was the Exchequer Coffee house, where Mr. Mitford, Mr. John James Perceval, and Mr. Speechley had been on Friday, March 5, after attending the House of Commons, to hear the debate on Mr. Cochrane Johnstone’s motion, relative to the Princess of Wales.—*Edit.*

† Mr. Mitford has explained this important business in the following manner:—The Princess of Wales was expected in town on Monday the 5th of March, and some officious persons, being desirous that certain marks of respect might be shewn to her Royal Highness, Mr. Mitford and an Irishman, at that time connected with *The Pilot* evening paper, were employed to procure a number of Irish chairmen and others, to take the horses from the carriage near the News-gate, and from thence to drag her royal highness to Warwick house, where she was going on a visit to the Princess Charlotte of Wales. This was the important commission, to effect which “no delays were to be suffered.” Mr. M. and his colleague, however, as the day approached, became alarmed, and most basely deserted their posts. Her royal highness therefore was allowed silently to proceed.—*Edit.*

‡ Her Ladyship was, I have been informed, at Montague house at this time, and therefore Mitford was to stop at the Green Man nearly opposite, and send her a note to say he was there. The expense she put this poor gentleman to, and the degrading manner in which she treated him, are well exemplified in this letter.—*Edit.*

Man Inn, and from thence send me a note to say you are there. I shall be in town very early to-morrow morning; so at all events let me hear from you there, for now I despair of doing so in this neighbourhood."

No. XXV.

" Dear Sir,

" I have enjoined a particular friend of mine, in a principal army agent's office, to prefer *The Star* before any other paper, for forwarding to our military officers abroad*. In haste,

" I am your's sincerely. B. P."

" Dec. 31."

Address—" John Mitford, Esq."

No. XXVI.

" Dear Sir,

" I write to say that you must not fail to come to the country after me, *this evening or to-morrow morning*†, for we must settle certain points for next week.

" March 6.

Yrs.

B. P."

No. XXVII.

" Come to me immediately, or you will find me at No. 16, Abingdon-street‡, Westminster, *this evening, at eight o'clock.*"

Address——

" John Mitford, Esq."

* The intriguing spirit of this woman could suffer nothing to escape her. Our army abroad were to be influenced by her inflammatory publications.—*Edit.*

† Such was the state of subjection in which Lady Perceval kept this unfortunate gentleman, that he was fain to come at her beck or call—in town or country, at a ruinous expense to himself and family. Promises were alone his recompense.—*Foot.*

‡ I have before named this house, it was the *focus* of the plot of 1813. A clue is here given which a very little trouble might unravel to the end.—*Edit.*

No. XXVIII.

[The following is an article which Mr. Mitford gave me for publication some time between March 22d and April 2d. At the time he gave it me, he hinted it had been deemed "*too strong*" by another newspaper; and he wrote an article of similar import, but in a more softened style, which he likewise put into my hands for publication. However I inserted neither. In point of fact, I had for some time after I received it, a suspicion that it was not in Lady Perceval's hand-writing (it being written in so scrawling a manner) although Mr. Mitford declared it was. I was however, soon satisfied on that head, and on the late trial Lady Perceval acknowledged it. The lines in blank are couched in such "*measured respectful language*," that I confess I possess not enough of the courage of Lord Nelson to insert them.]

"A Curious Fact,"

"Out of thy own mouth, and by thy own deeds I will
judge thee*."

"That in the name and on behalf of His Majesty, to use the accustomed formula for promulgating present-acts and deeds of sovereign power, Sir John and Charlotte Douglas his wife were summoned to town, and for the convenience of contiguity lodged, as they are still in St. Albans Street. So that no time might be lost, which might with a *due and laudable respect to English justice* be consecrated to the *re*. Secret examination of the aforesaid Sir John, and Charlotte his wife, upon the evidence formerly

*	*	*	*	*	*	*
*	*	*	*	*	*	*
*	*	*	*	*	*	*
*	*	*	*	*	*	*

If referred to for proof of the authenticity of this historical fact, Sir J. D. will confirm this statement, which he has already made to several members of parliament."

* This apt quotation has not been *inaptly* applied to her Ladyship.—
Edit.

No. XXIX.

"Lady Perceval has the honour of presenting her compliments to Lord Hood, and takes the liberty of requesting for a connexion of Lord Perceval's (Mr. John Mitford) the indulgence of a few minutes interview. Many years having intervened since Mr. Mitford had the honour of serving under the command of Sir Samuel Hood, and at that time being presented to Lord Hood, he was apprehensive that without a second introduction his Lordship might not recollect him. Lady Perceval begs leave to apologise for undertaking to make it."

"Curzon Street, Sept. 4, 1812.

"Right Hon. Lord Hood, &c. &c."

[My motive for inserting the above letter, which was a mere introductory letter to Lord Hood, received from Lady Perceval, but never used by Mitford, is to shew that at the very time it was written, Mitford was under nominal confinement as a *lunatic*, and with Lady Perceval's knowledge. The first information I had of the *lunacy business* was from Lady Perceval, who, on my interview with her Ladyship, on the 4th of April, observed, that "Mr. Mitford was subject to occasional fits of insanity, in one of which she supposed he had given me the documents" said to be forged. Her Ladyship also said, that he had not been many weeks released from a mad-house, but did not, as far as I recollect, specify time or place. These deficiencies were, however, amply supplied by Mr. Holt and Mr. Warburton, who called on me on the Thursday following, April 8. The latter then stated, in the presence of two witnesses, that Mr. Mitford had been *under confinement*, at his house, from May, 1812, to March, 1813; that he could not, however, name the exact day he (Mr. M.) left him, without referring to his papers; but that he was clear he was with him from May, 1812, until some time in March, 1813, and that he was then *released* at the invitation of Lady Perceval, but without his or Lord Redesdale's consent. Mr. Holt confirmed all this, adding however, that he merely spoke from information received by him from Lady Perceval. All this must appear

to the public very strange. Here is a man, who by the testimony of a keeper of a mad-house *was in his custody as a lunatic*, from May, 1812, to March, 1813, and yet Lady Perceval writes a letter of introduction for this lunatic to a nobleman of high rank in one of the intervening months. I should much wish to know whether the confinement of this lunatic from May, 1812, to March, 1813, proceeded from *political* or *civil* reasons.]—*Edit.*

No. XXX.

“ Wednesday Night.

“ My dear Mrs. Mitford,

“ Your poor unfortunate husband has indeed plunged you into the greatest distress; and me too implicated beyond all conception. I believe him either ill again, or having been bribed by ———. We have him very safe here, and he shall not come to harm. But, a legal counsel* must talk with him. He seems miserable; but do not be alarmed for his life. He has implicated the Princess, Lady Anne Hamilton, and most himself. Yet it may end not amiss, if he be in his senses. Come down to me by the first coach, because if he be ill, you must give authority to act†. He shall be safe with us from mischief.

“ Your friend,

Address—“ Mrs. J. Mitford,

“ B. P.”

“ Crawford Street.

“ Why did you not write to me before?”

* This expression is well worthy of remark. “*The legal counsel*,” here alluded to, was Mr. Holt. Now, if Mitford was *insane*, what had a *legal counsel* to do with him! If he was not insane, and had actually done what Lady Perceval accused him of, why should she harbour and protect him? —*Edit.*

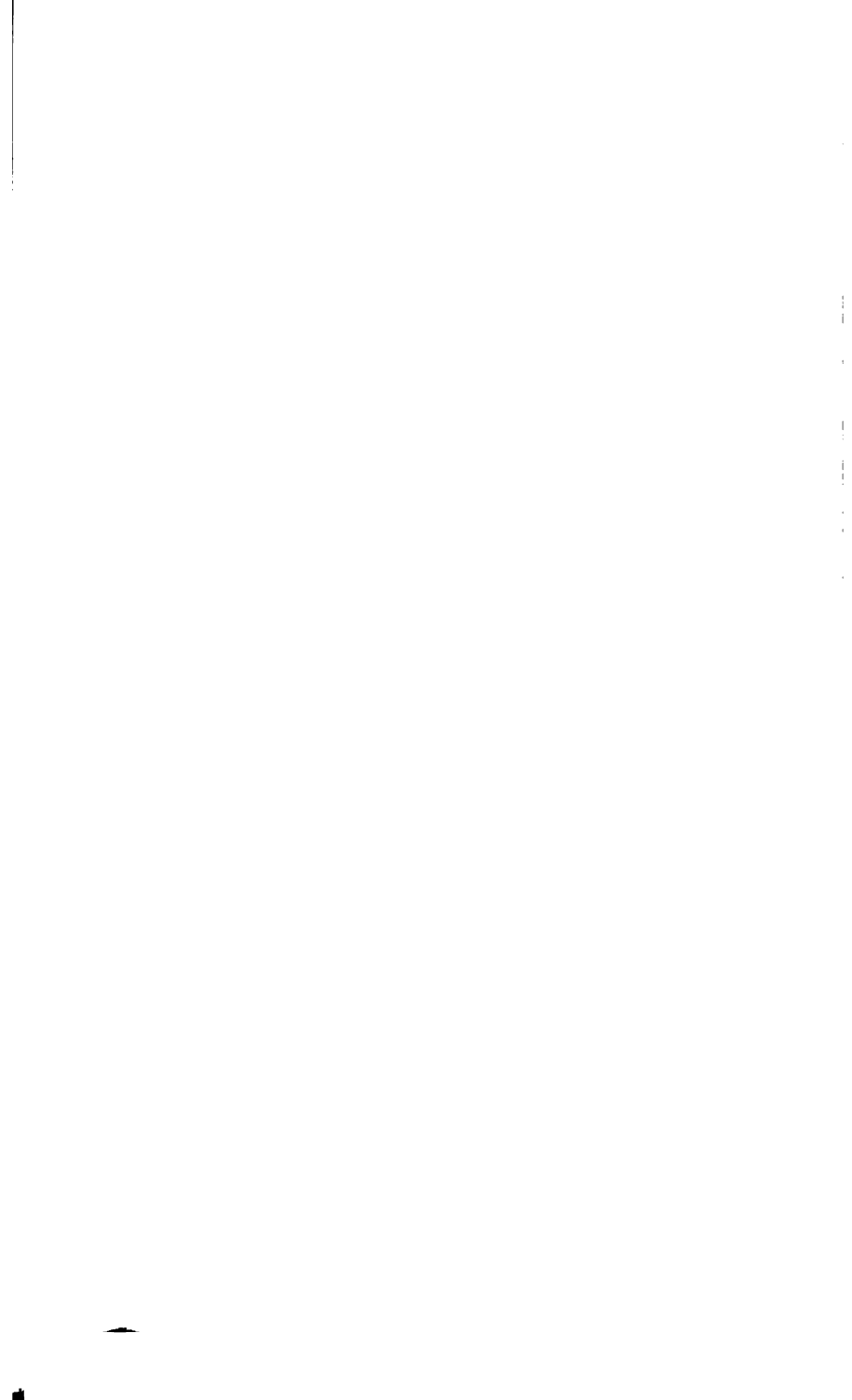
† This is the pith of the whole letter. Mitford could not be *made mad*; that is, he could not be committed to custody as a madman without autho-

[This letter was received by Mrs. Mitford on Thursday, April 8th, the *fourth day* after my publishing the forged letters, and the day after poor Mitford had been captured and taken prisoner to Blackheath by Lady Perceval's *Aid-de-camps*. The letter is written in a very guarded style, and was evidently intended to alarm Mrs. Mitford for the life of her husband, which it did most effectually. I however wish, particularly to draw the attention of the public to the following circumstances attending this letter. On the trial, Lady Perceval swore, that on the Sunday previous, I demanded to be confronted with Mitford, which I did. She also swore that she was anxious I should see him, and for that purpose wished to detain him on that day. Why then, I publicly demand of Lady Perceval, did she not, when writing the above letter, write also to me to inform me that she had Mitford safe on the Wednesday. Is not the reason obvious? Does not this letter prove that she dreaded above all things the meeting of Mitford and myself. She knew I wished most anxiously to see Mitford, and yet she purposely concealed him from me.]—*Edit.*

riety from his poor wife; and this authority was to be wrung from her by alternate promises and threats. So alarmed was she, that she was unable to write the few lines necessary to commit her husband. "The legal counsel," therefore, kindly assisted her; he wrote the letter which she copied. A man from Warburton's soon came, and away went the alleged forger, transformed by *magic art* into a lunatic.—*Edit.*

THE END.









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The important trial of John M

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